PRESENTED BY

Niichi

1

Sometimes Even Reality Is Alien!

OPENING

SHOULD I BRING THIS BOOK WITH ME TOO?

HOW TO START A CONVERSATION WITH A NEW FRIEND

LET'S SEE, I HAVE MY HANDKER-CHIEF AND TISSUES...

WHEW, THIS REALLY MAKES ME NERVOUS.

B-DMP

ドキ

B-DMP

I CAN'T BELIEVE PEOPLE ACTUALLY GO OUTSIDE TO HANG OUT EVERY WEEK!

ぽい TOSS

ぽい TOSS

DO I LOOK OKAY?

YEAH...

I THINK I DO?

PROBABLY.

DING

AFTER ALL...

I NEED TO BE IN MY ABSOLUTE BEST FORM FOR THIS, THOUGH.

Kaori-chan

Just to make sure, we're meeting up around 1 at the south station exit, right?

Yeah!

I'm looking forward to meeting you!

I'm looking forward to meeting you too!

I FINALLY GET TO MEET KAORI-CHAN!

リアル
現実もたまには嘘をつく

Sometimes Even Reality Is a Lie!

NIICHI

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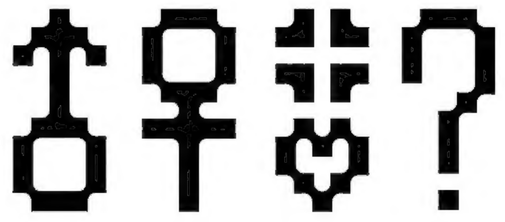


Sometimes
Even Reality
Is a Lie!

PRESENTED BY NIICHI

LEVEL 1 I GUESS THIS SITUATION ISN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL

エレベーター

RIGHT NOW, I'M WAITING TO MEET UP WITH SOMEONE BY THE TICKET GATES AT THE STATION.

MY NAME IS KAORU TERASAKI.

-RRY.

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY FOR BEING A GUY. I'M SORRY FOR BEING A GUY. I'M SORRY FOR BEING A GUY. I'M VERY SORRY FOR BEING A GUY.

ナニー DRIP

...I'M ALSO REHEARSING MY APOLOGY.

ナニー DRIP

ナニー DRIP

NANAMI!

TO EXPLAIN, I'LL HAVE TO TURN BACK TIME A BIT.

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!

HP 4121/4121

MP 738/738

<<CHAT>>

KAORI >> NANAMI: SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!

Nanami

Kaori

WE SPENT A LOT OF TIME TOGETH-ER.

WE WERE ALWAYS PAIRING UP FOR STUFF LIKE QUESTS, OR SPENDING ALL NIGHT CAMPING RARE MONSTER SPAWNS.

WE GOT ALONG GREAT.

>>DM

YEAH! LET'S GO!

ARE YOU READY?

HEY, I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS!

AND BEST OF ALL ...

I HAD MADE A FRIEND IN AN ONLINE GAME THAT WE BOTH PLAYED.

I TOOK THE FIRST TRAIN TO LINE UP FOR IT.

Na

I COULDN'T MAKE IT...

FOR REAL?! WASN'T IT LIMITED TO THE FIRST FIFTY PEOPLE?

I WAS SO HAPPY TO HAVE FOUND THEM.

THIS WAS A FRIEND THAT I COULD GEEK OUT WITH ABOUT OUR FAVORITE CHARACTERS.

NYA~

I MANAGED TO SNAG A LIMITED EDITION PETEN-CHAN FIGURE!

PETEN-CHAN
(NICKNAME: DECEIT)

HORROR GAME HEROINE. SEEMS LIKE A SMOOTH TALKER, MORE OF A STEAMROLLER. ONLY THING DECEITFUL ABOUT HER IS HER NICKNAME. SCARIER THAN THE ACTUAL ZOMBIES.

HEEEY, DON'T LAUGH AT ME!

HA HA!

YOU'RE SUCH A DITZ, KAORI!

I ALMOST GOT ON THE WRONG TRAIN, I ABOUT LOST IT. THOUGH.

HOWEVER, THERE WAS ONE TEENSY ISSUE.

THIS IS ME.

3
Ticket Machine

IT'S RARE TO FIND A GIRL THAT ACTUALLY LIKES PETEN-CHAN, AFTER ALL.

BUT... BUT...

I'M SURE IT'LL BE A HUGE BUM-MER THAT I'M NOT A GIRL IRL...

WE CHATTED SO MUCH THAT NOW I'M GOING TO CHECK OUT NANAMI-SAN'S PETEN-CHAN COLLECTION, BUT...

SIGH...

END OF FLASH-BACK

CLENCH

ぐぃっ

OUR PROTAGO-NIST MAKING EXCUSES TO NO ONE IN PARTICULAR

IT'S, LIKE, WAY MORE FUN TO PLAY AS A GIRL CHARACTER INSTEAD OF SOME DUDE, RIGHT?!

PLUS THE GEAR FOR GIRLS IS WAY CUTER TOO!

THAT'S WEIRD. THIS SHOULD BE THE RIGHT PLACE...

OH GOD, THIS IS IT!

WHERE ARE YOU, KAORI-SAN?

IT'S ME, NANAMI!

I'M HERE! "SHE'S" ME! I'M SO SORRY!!!

HUH? IS SHE NOT HERE?

#1 JOLT

KAORI-SAN?

SHOULD I SEND A MESSAGE TO CHECK...?

UM...

EXCUSE ME...

R-RIGHT.

WAIT, NO, I'M NOT TRYING TO HIT ON YOU OR ANY-THING!

NO!

OH.

DON'T EVEN *THINK* ABOUT HITTING ON ME.

I'M WAITING FOR MY FRIEND.

HUH?

NANAMI

YOU'RE NA-NAMI-SAN, RIGHT...?

...WAIT, WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?

I'M WAITING FOR A CUTE GIRL WHO LOVES A CHARACTER CALLED PETEN-CHAN, SO...

THAT WOULD BE ME. SORRY...

I HAD NO CHOICE. MY PARENTS TOTALLY SUCK AT IT...

SHE SAID SHE'S GOOD AT COOKING TOO...

I GOOGLED THAT TO KEEP UP WITH OUR CHATS...

KAORI-CHAN'S INTO MAKEUP, SO...

THERE'S *NO WAY* THAT COULD BE TRUE.

WHAT?!

HUH?!

FOR REAL?!

HUU-UH?!

I SURE DIDN'T EXPECT THINGS TO TURN OUT LIKE THIS.

HONESTLY, I'D BEEN PREPARED TO DISAP-POINT MY FRIEND BY NOT BEING A GIRL, BUT...

...

FOUR LONG YEARS OF SEARCHING... I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY FOUND SOMEONE ELSE WHO UNDERSTOOD PETEN-CHAN'S CHARMS, AND YET...

I'M SORRY...

I'M SO DEVASTATED, I COULD PUKE...

I CAN'T STAND GUYS...

I'M VERY SORRY...

UGH...

UGH...!

YOU EVEN SAID IT WITH A STRAIGHT FACE!

VIOLENT MEN SURE ARE SCARY, RIGHT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "SORRY"?! I REMEMBER YOU SAYING...

STOP! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

MY IMAGE OF KAORI-CHAN WILL CRUMBLE TO DUST!

WHAT SHOULD I DO ...?

THIS KIND OF STRAIGHT FACE?

YOU HAVE A MALE CHARACTER, DON'T YOU, NANAMI-SAN?

IF YOU'RE GONNA GO THAT FAR, THEN I'M JUST GONNA SAY IT...

THAT'S A SUPER SPECIFIC WAY TO INSULT SOME-ONE...

IT'S LIKE GETTING BAITED BY A FIVE-STAR GUARANTEED BANNER PULL, ONLY TO END UP WITH DUPES OF FIVE-STAR POWER CREEP VERSIONS OF LAUNCH CHARACTERS INSTEAD...

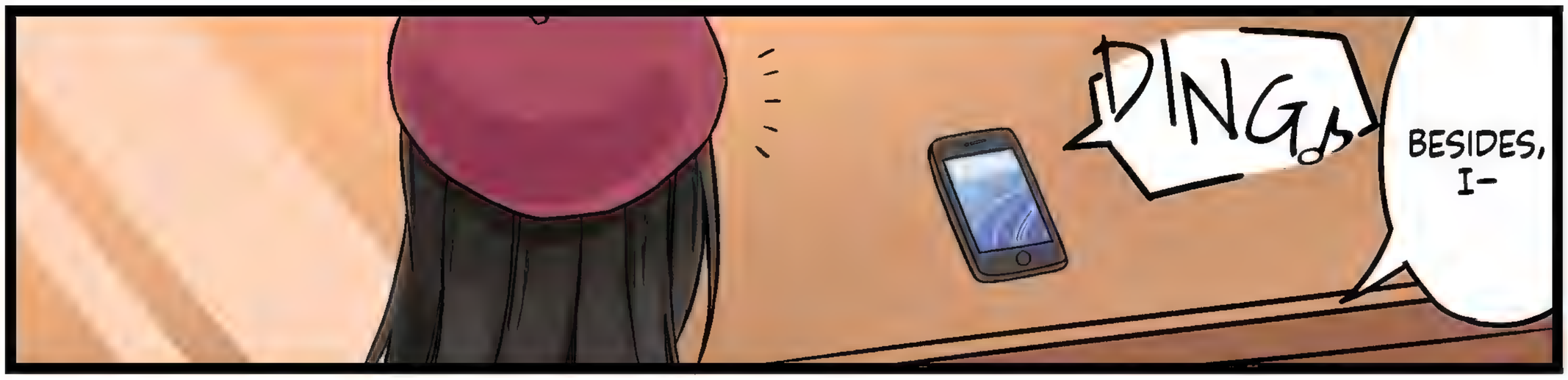
THIS SUCKS.

AND WHY'S THAT?

OF COURSE I DO!

IN A WAY, YOU KINDA DID GET CATFISHED, THOUGH!

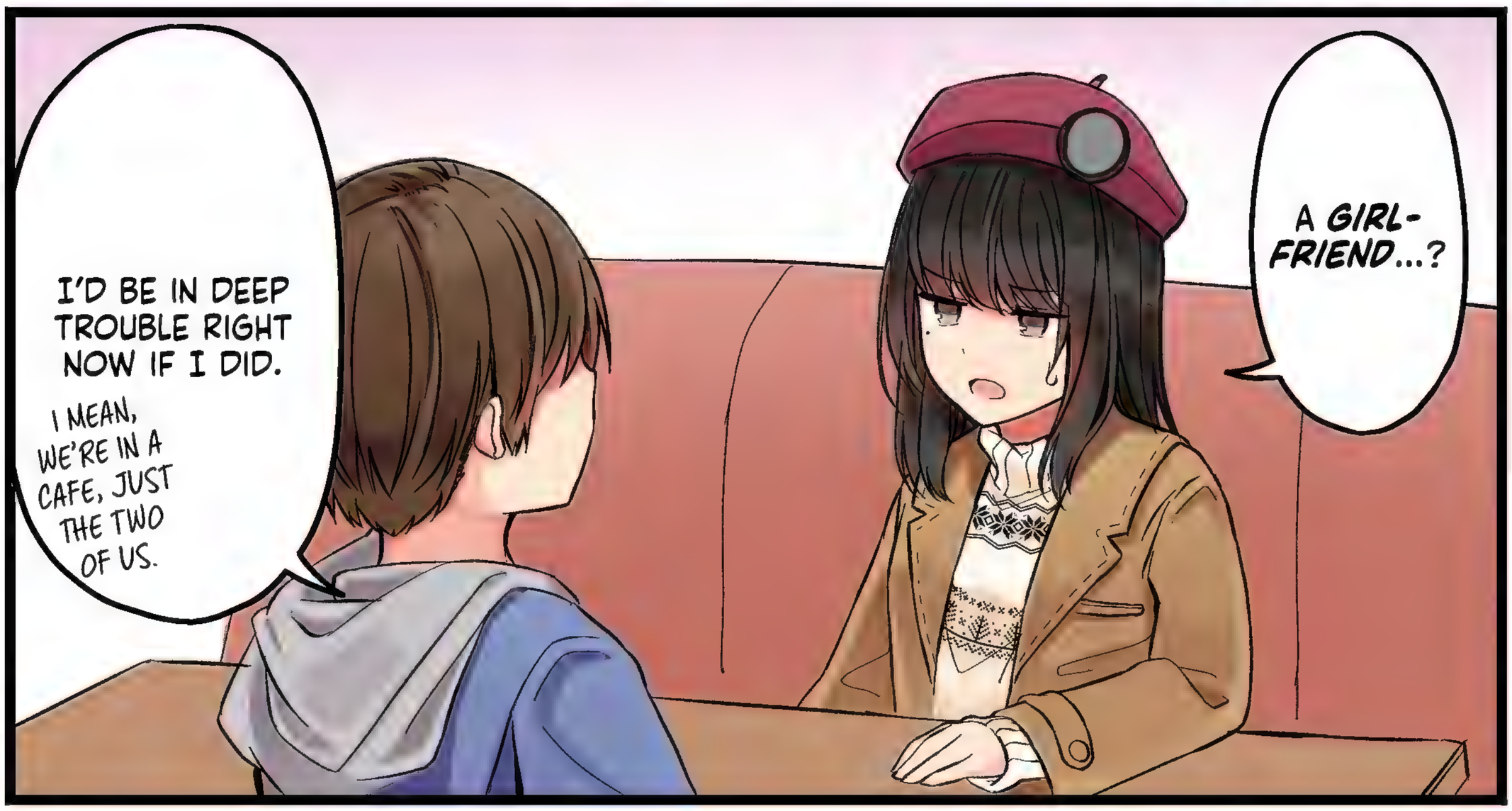
I MEAN, I'D BE ASKING TO GET CATFISHED BY CREEPS LOOKING TO HOOK UP IF I PLAYED AS A GIRL, RIGHT?!


DING♪
BESIDES, I-

UM... WOULD YOU BY CHANCE ...
...HAPPEN TO HAVE A LITTLE SISTER?
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM? NO, I DON'T.

HM?
CRAP.

NOPE...
ANY FEMALE FRIENDS?
NO, I'M AN ONLY CHILD, SO...
WHAT ABOUT AN OLDER SISTER?


I'D BE IN DEEP TROUBLE RIGHT NOW IF I DID.
I MEAN, WE'RE IN A CAFE, JUST THE TWO OF US.
A GIRL-FRIEND...?

NOPE.

ALSO, IT SUCKS TO HAVE TO KEEP SAYING NO OVER AND OVER, SO LET'S JUST DROP IT ALREADY.

UGH! DO YOU SERIOUSLY NOT KNOW ANY GIRLS THAT YOU COULD ASK TO COME OVER HERE?!

...

EVEN IF THEY DON'T, I'D BE OKAY IF THEY JUST PRETEND THEY DO!

BECAUSE I NEED A GIRL WHO GETS PE-TEN-CHAN'S CHARMS!

BESIDES, EVEN IF I HAD A SISTER, WHY WOULD YOU NEED ME TO BRING HER HERE RIGHT NOW?

UH, DOES IT HAVE TO BE A GIRL?

UM...

WELL...

I MAY NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT I REALLY DO LIKE PETEN-CHAN.

EVEN THOUGH OUR FRIENDSHIP STARTED ON THE INTERNET, I WAS STILL REALLY HAPPY TO FIND SOMEONE THAT I COULD GUSH ABOUT PETEN-CHAN WITH. I MEAN IT.

?

YOU SEE...

...IT HAS TO BE A GIRL NO MATTER WHAT.

I WAS HAPPY ABOUT THAT TOO, BUT...

Nanami?

Have you managed to meet up with your friend?

I've prepared all sorts of snacks for once she gets here!

Let me know when you're heading over! :)

WHOA, HER MOM'S REALLY INTO THIS!

I ALREADY TOLD MY MOM THAT A FRIEND OF MINE WOULD BE COMING OVER TODAY, AND I TOLD HER THEY WERE A GIRL...

THAT'S MORE OF A SERIOUS REASON THAN I THOUGHT!

MY MOM'S BEEN WORRIED ABOUT THAT, SO YEAH...

WELL, MY HOBBIES ARE KINDA NICHE, SO I'VE HAD A HARD TIME MAK-ING FRIENDS UP 'TIL NOW...

WAIT, HOLD ON, WHY'S YOUR MOM SO EXCITED THAT YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND COMING OVER? THIS IS A BIT MUCH, ISN'T IT?!

CRACK

CRACK

MY DAD'S THE OVERPROTECTIVE TYPE. HE'S INTENT ON BEATING UP ANY GUYS WHO GET TOO CLOSE TO ME, SO THAT WON'T WORK...

3RD DEGREE BLACK BELT IN JUDO, 2ND DAN IN KENDO.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN WHY CAN'T YOU JUST TELL HER?

YOU WERE WRONG ABOUT ME BEING A GIRL, BUT WE STILL HAVE SIMILAR INTERESTS, AFTER ALL.

YOUR FAMILY SURE IS FULL OF COLORFUL CHARACTERS!

W-WAIT!

DON'T LEAVE!

GLATTER

I FEEL BAD ABOUT RUINING YOUR MOM'S FUN, BUT...

NEITHER OF US KNOW ANY GIRLS WHO CAN PLAY ALONG WITH YOUR STORY, AND I CAN'T GO OVER THERE IF YOUR DAD'S LIKE THAT.

WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN REALLY DO.

HOLD ON A SEC.

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR EYES, NOW THAT I LOOK AT YOU...

HUH?

YOU'RE NOT ALL THAT TALL EITHER...

...AND YOU'RE PRETTY SLENDER TOO...

UM, SO...

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?

WOULDN'T EVERYTHING WORK OUT PERFECTLY IF YOU JUST DRESSED AS A GIRL...?

UH, NO?!

Rico & Mashiro

...

YOU ACTUALLY LOOK CUTE...

YOU KINDA LOOK LIKE PETEN-CHAN.

NO WAY...

NO, NO, NO, THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT.

WHY THE HECK DO I HAVE TO WEAR THESE CLOTHES?!

DON'T WORRY, I'LL PAY FOR THEM!

THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE!

* STANDS FOR "GUY IN REAL LIFE." IT'S A BIT OF AN OUTDATED TERM, THOUGH

WELL, IT CERTAINLY WASN'T SO I COULD VISIT THE HOUSE OF A GIRL I'D ONLY JUST MET AND THEN LIE TO HER PARENTS!

AFTER ALL, WHY ELSE WERE YOU A G.I.R.L.*?

C'MON, TAP INTO YOUR EXPERIENCE KEEPING THE ACT UP ALL THESE YEARS.

BESIDES, WOULDN'T THE WAY I MOVE OR TALK TOTALLY GIVE ME AWAY?

THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO WEAR A SKIRT...?

THESE CLOTHES ARE SO BREEZY, IT MAKES ME FEEL KINDA AWKWARD...

WELL, THIS SURE FEELS WEIRD.

ALL RIGHT, WAIT HERE FOR A BIT.

WAIT, YOU ALREADY PAID?!

THAT FAST?!

THE SALESPERSON SAID YOU CAN LEAVE THE STORE AS IS.

そわ
FUSS

そわ
FUSS

OH MY GOOD-NESS!

HELLO, WELCOME! COME ON IN!

KA-CHAK

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME SNACKS? I HAVE FRUIT AS WELL! OH, OR MAYBE YOU WOULD RATHER HAVE SOME TEA FIRST?

YEAH, YEAH.

I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU LATER.

JUST TO BE CLEAR, I'M ONLY GOING TO BE HERE FOR A BIT. I'LL LEAVE RIGHT AFTER I SAY HI.

NO THANKS, MOM! WE'RE JUST GONNA HANG OUT IN MY ROOM!

DUCK

UH...

HMM?

I'M ONLY KEEPING QUIET SO I DON'T GET BUSTED FOR MY VOICE!

SORRY!

OH, I SEE YOUR FRIEND'S A BIT SHY. SORRY, I SHOULD'VE ASKED FIRST.

NANA-MI?

NOD

NOD

FOLLOW ME.

スーゴゴゴ

INTIMI

DA

TING

SUPER MUSCULAR DAD!

OVER-PROTECTIVE OF HIS DAUGHTER...

HE'S HUGE!

BOW

I'M SCREWED...!

SHE'S A BIT OF AN ONLINE GAME ADDICT, BUT I HOPE YOU'LL BE GOOD FRIENDS WITH HER!

GRIN

こ〜お…

OH, SO YOU'RE KAORI-CHAN! I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU FROM MY DAUGHTER!

Y'KNOW, THE ONE I TOLD YOU ABOUT!

OH, HI, DAD! THIS IS MY FRIEND, KAORI-CHAN!

...

I HAVE TO TAKE THIS TO MY GRAVE!

IF NANAMI'S DAD FINDS OUT THAT I'M ACTUALLY A GUY CROSS-DRESSING TO GET INTO HIS DAUGHTER'S ROOM, HE'LL KILL ME!

THAT WAS SO SCARY!

...

I ALMOST SPOKE BY ACCIDENT!

WHY'D YOU STOP ALL OF A SUD-DEN?!

ACK!

BUMP

I WONDER WHAT HERS IS LIKE. IS IT STEREOTYPI-CALLY GIRLY WITH A FLORAL DESIGN OR PASTEL COLORS...?

OH YEAH, I KINDA JUST WENT ALONG WITH NANAMI'S IDEA, BUT THIS IS ACTUALLY MY FIRST TIME ENTERING A GIRL'S ROOM.

KA-CHAK

UH,

WELL, YEAH...

HUH? WHAT'S UP? THIS IS YOUR ROOM, RIGHT?

Peten

?!

I MEAN, OF COURSE YOU WOULD.

UH, HA HA, YEAH.

MM, I FIGURED YOU'D BE GROSSED OUT BY ALL THIS...

IS ALL OF THIS...PETEN-CHAN...?

HUH? W-WAIT...

THIS...

LET'S JUST GO SOME-WHERE ELSE...

UM, WELL, FORGET WHAT I SAID.

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS, SO THAT'S WHY I INVITED YOU OVER. BUT...

EVERYONE ELSE WHO'S SEEN MY ROOM WAS GROSSED OUT BY IT TOO.

THIS IS AWESOME, NANAMI!

YOUR ROOM'S LIKE A TREASURE TROVE OF PETEN-CHAN MERCH!

ぎゅっ GRAB

WHOA, YOU EVEN GOT IT SIGNED BY THE ARTIST?!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE THIS IN PERSON!

AMAZING!

AND ISN'T THAT THE LIMITED-EDITION POSTER THAT WAS ONLY AT THE ART EXHIBITION FOR PETEN-CHAN'S ILLUSTRATOR?!

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN SOMEONE WITH A COMPLETE COLLECTION OF THE OLDER FIGURES!

C

IMPRESSIVE! I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE COULD PULL THAT OFF!

ISN'T THIS THE TOP-TIER REWARD FOR THAT 72-HOUR MARATHON QUEST?!

WHOA!

THAT'S NOT MY ENTIRE COLLECTION! CHECK OUT MY SECRET STASH!

CLUNK

ガタッ

UM, WELL, LEMME SHOW YOU SOME MORE!

THIS HERE IS-

AT THAT MOMENT...

WHAT'S IN THIS BOX?

OH, I'M GLAD YOU ASKED! IT'S...

WELL...

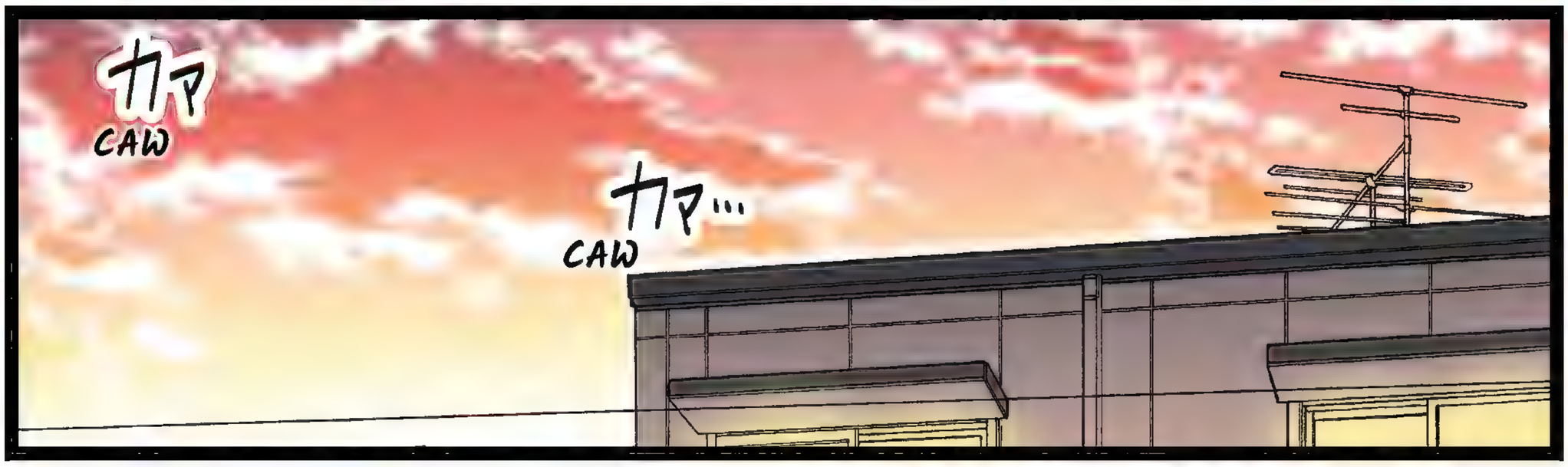
I REALIZED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD SEEN NANAMI SMILE.

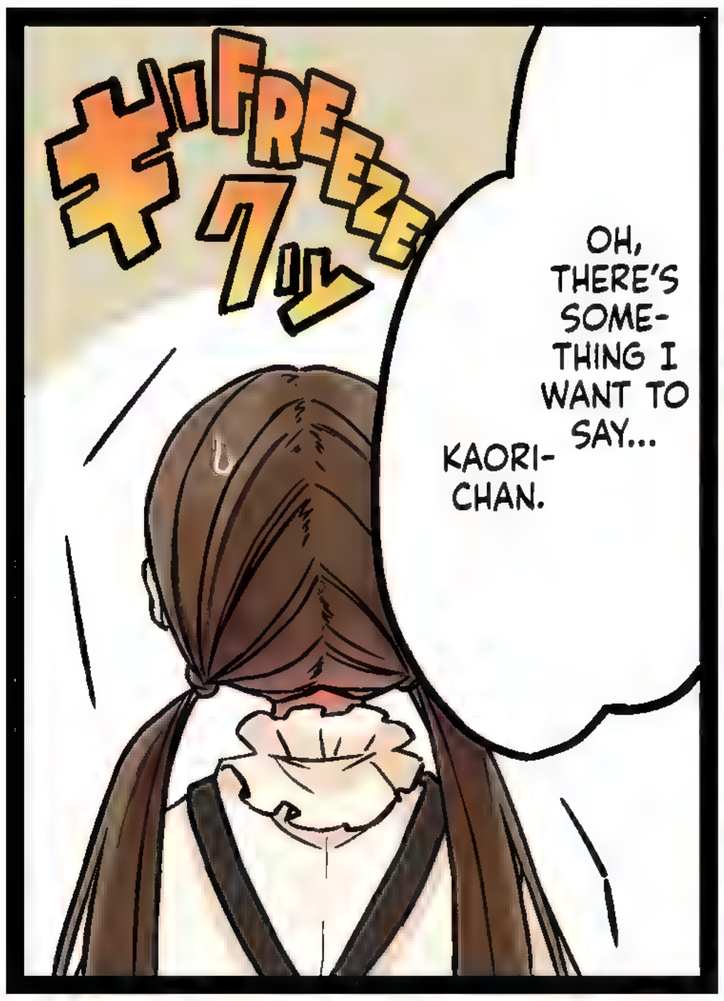
I GUESS THIS SITUATION ISN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL.

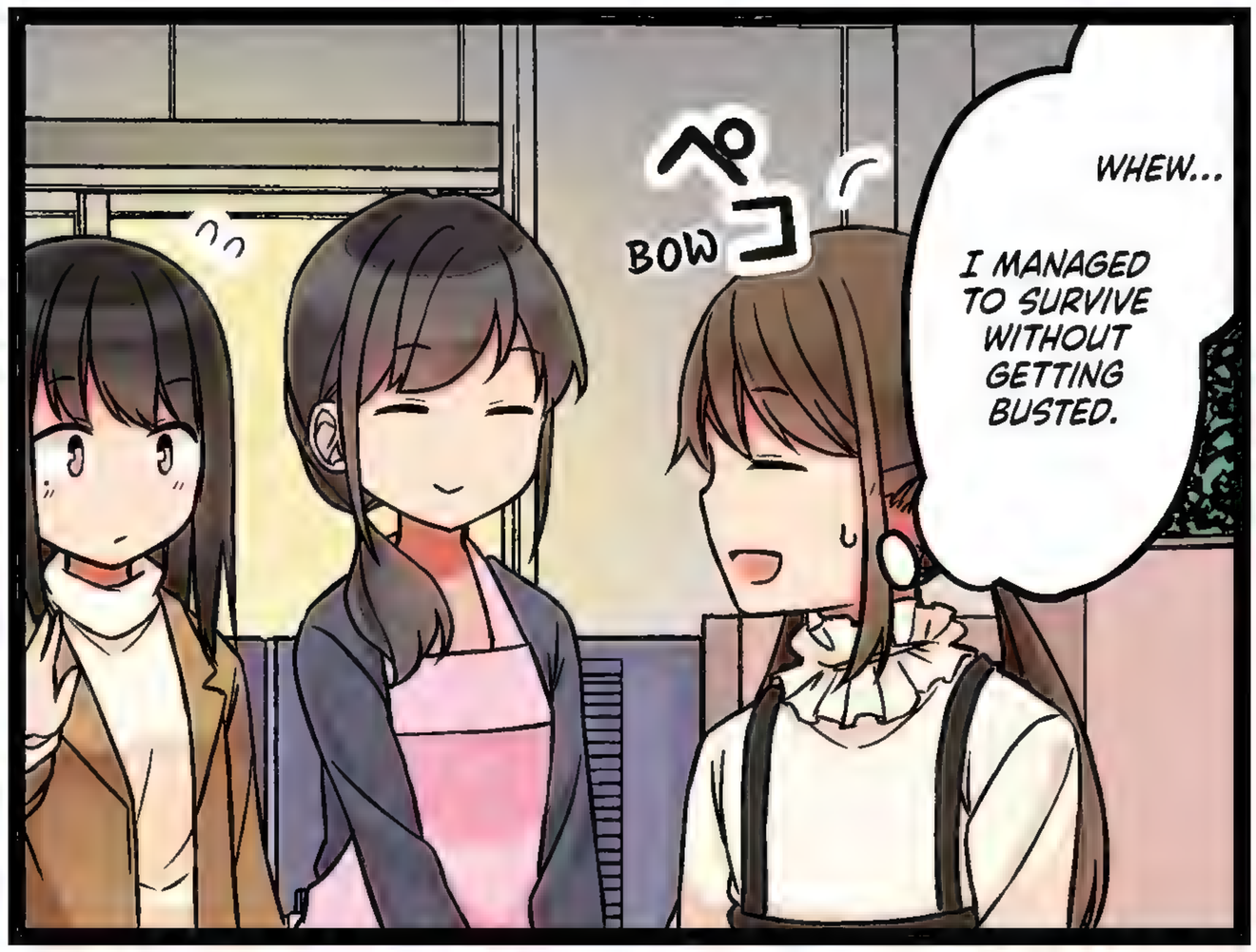
AT LEAST, PART OF ME THINKS SO.

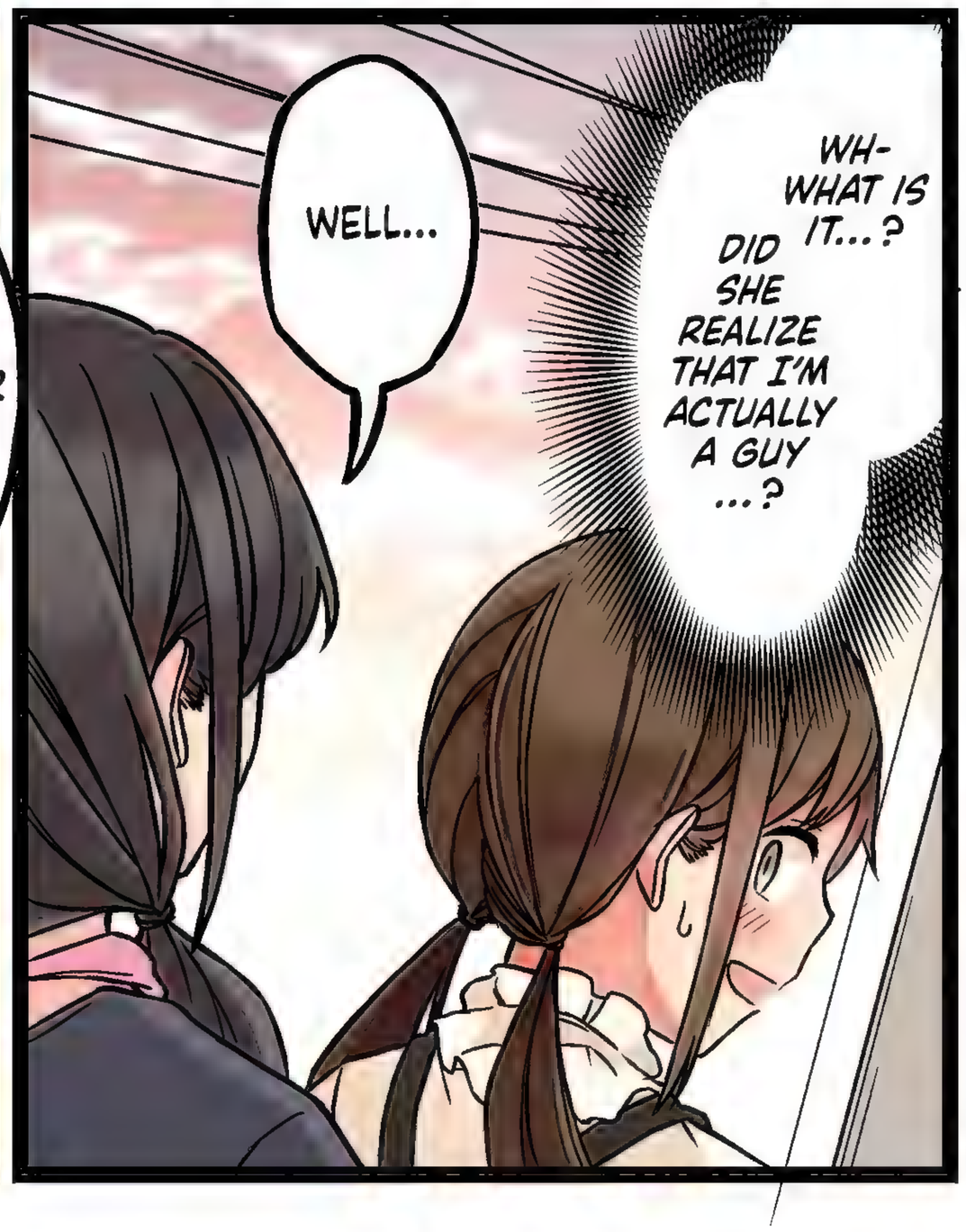
«NEXT

LEVEL 1.5 IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME









I WAS SURPRISED BY HOW HAPPY NANAMI LOOKED EARLIER.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I LAST SAW HER HAVING FUN LIKE THAT.

I'D REALLY APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD HANG OUT WITH HER MORE AND TAKE HER OUT PLACES.

SHE TENDS TO PREFER STAYING IN HER ROOM MOST OF THE TIME,

BUT I FEEL LIKE SHE'D BE MORE WILLING TO GO OUTSIDE IF IT'S WITH YOU, KAORI-CHAN.

WH-WHA?!

...

THANKS AGAIN FOR COMING OVER!

NOD

NOD

«NEXT

LEVEL 2 AND BY THEY, I MEAN THE INTERNET

IT'S NOT MY FAULT THAT THE TRAINS WERE LATE.

DON'T MAKE ME WAIT IN A CROWDED PLACE LIKE THIS!

OH!

YOU'RE LATE!

I STAYED UP PLAYING THAT *DBD* HORROR GAME, AND NEXT THING I KNEW, IT WAS MORNING.

HUH?

WAIT, HAVE YOU NOT SLEPT AT ALL TODAY?

YOU OKAY?

I WOULD'VE GOTTEN A BIT OF SLEEP IF I'D KNOWN YOU WERE GONNA BE SO LATE...

MY FRIEND, NANAMI OSAKA, IS A GIRL WHO LIKES PLAYING ONLINE GAMES. IN FACT, THAT'S HOW WE MET.

SHE'S A HOMEBODY, SO THIS IS ONLY THE SECOND TIME WE'VE MET UP OUTSIDE.

YAWN

SO, WHERE TO?

SINCE YOU WANNA GO SO BAD.

THAT SAID...

APPARENTLY, THERE'S A PLACE THAT SHE WANTED TO VISIT TODAY, NO MATTER WHAT.

MAYBE SHE'S FINALLY TAKEN AN INTEREST IN OUTDOOR-

THE ARCADE!

REALLY...?

OR MAYBE NOT.

NO, IT'S BECAUSE IT'S ***EXACTLY*** LIKE YOU.

IS IT THAT STRANGE FOR ME TO WANT TO GO TO AN ARCADE?

HUH? WHADDYA MEAN, "REALLY"?

HMM?

...YOU DEAL WITH THEM WHILE I RUN AWAY, GOT IT?

IF WE RUN INTO ANY JERKS THAT TRY TO BOTHER ME...

WHATEVER. LET'S GO.

OH.

ARE YOU FOR REAL?

LIKE, I WAS CONVINCED YOU WANTED TO MASTER SOME GAMES OR SOMETHING.

I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO COME HERE FOR A DIFFERENT REASON, NANAMI.

I KNOW THAT.

HEY!

IN CASE YOU DON'T KNOW, THAT WAY'S WHERE THE PHOTO STICKER BOOTHS ARE.

OH.

GOTCHA.

I CAME HERE TODAY SPECIFICALLY TO TAKE SOME SELFIES IN THEM.

SO I WAS RIGHT!

FIDGET もじもじ

WELL, UM...

I'M DOWN FOR THAT TOO, I GUESS...

LATER, THAT IS.

FIDGET もじもじ

OKAY, YOU DON'T HAFTA PUSH.

WHY ARE YOU SO INSISTENT ON TAKING SELFIES TOGETHER ANYWAY?

HURRY!

ALL RIGHT, WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT LATER.

NOW, LET'S GO TAKE SOME SELFIES!

?

IT'S JUST THAT...

ERR...

WELL...

YOU SEE...

UM...

DOESN'T SAYING THAT OUT LOUD KINDA RUIN YOUR PLAN...?

I'M HAPPY TO HEAR IT, BUT STILL.

AFTER THAT, WE TOOK A BUNCH OF SELFIES TOGETHER IN THE PHOTO BOOTH.

AND BY ***THEY***, I MEAN THE INTER-NET...

THEY SAY THAT TAKING SELFIES WITH FRIENDS IS A GOOD WAY TO GET CLOSER TO THEM...

«NEXT

LEVEL 3

SHE SURE IS HONEST ABOUT HER FEELINGS AT TIMES LIKE THIS

WOW, IT REALLY IS! LET'S TRY TO GET IT!

ISN'T THAT BEAR PLUSHIE SUPER CUTE?

HEY, CHECK IT OUT!

WE HAD FINISHED TAKING OUR PHOTOS WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS... SO WE WENT TO LOOK AROUND THE ARCADE TOGETHER NEXT.

OH.

THERE'S A PETEN-CHAN FIGURE IN THIS ONE.

I MEAN, THERE'S NO POINT FOR ME SINCE I DON'T HAVE ANY USE FOR PLUSHIES, SO–

HM?

OH, IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE ONES WITH PRIZES, THEN NOT REALLY.

DO YOU HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH CRANE GAMES, NANAMI?

GLUED

YOU'RE WAY TOO CLOSE.

YOU'RE GONNA GET YELLED AT BY THE STAFF.

NANAMI...

PETEN-CHAN (NICKNAME: DECEIT)

A HORROR GAME CHARACTER NANAMI AND KAORU BOTH LIKE. ENEMIES ARE WARY OF BEING DECEIVED BY HER WORDS, BUT SHE ACTUALLY JUST PHYSICALLY ATTACKS THEM WITHOUT WARNING USING HER SCYTHE. THE ONLY DECEITFUL THING ABOUT HER IS HER NICKNAME.

HMM...

I'M NOT REALLY GOOD AT CRANE GAMES, BUT...

I GUESS I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT.

K-KAORU! I WANT IIITTT!

WHAT DO I HAFTA DO TO GET IT?!

ｳｨｨｨ... WHRRRR

THUD

ｳｨｨｨｰﾝ WHRRRR

ガチャ TUG

チャ KA KLINK!

WHOA, THE HECK?

THE CRANE ARM'S WAY WEAKER THAN EXPECTED...

SORRY, NANAMI...

THIS GAME'S PROBABLY SET UP SO THAT THE PRIZES ARE HARD TO GET. LET'S GIVE UP AND GO SOMEWHERE EL-

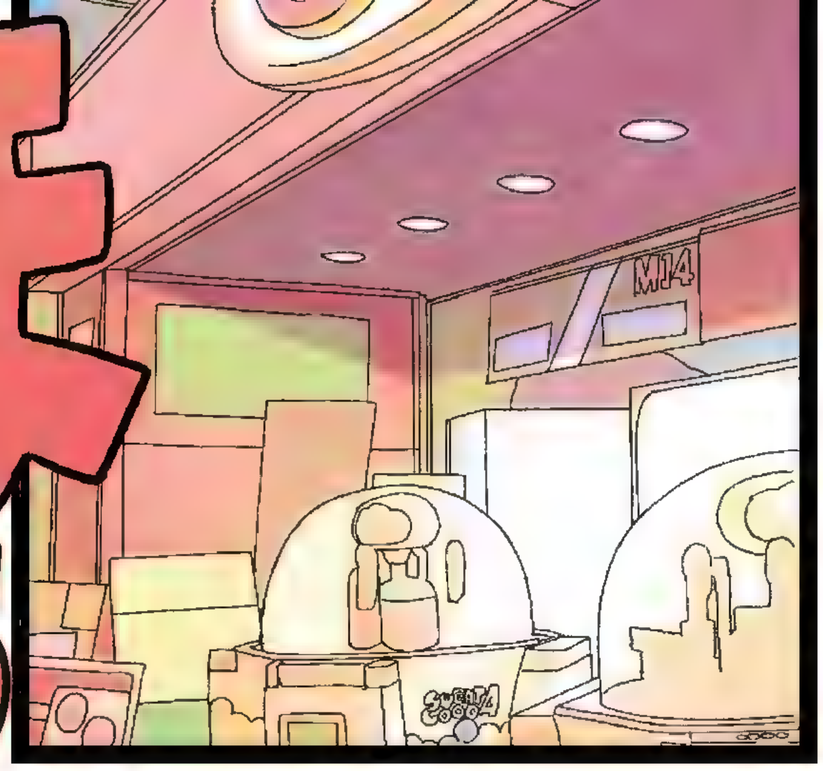
ACTUALLY, LEMME GIVE IT A FEW MORE SHOTS BEFORE WE GO!

TEARY

?

ほSS

BOOTH


M14

OF COURSE!
A-ARE YOU SURE?!
I-I CAN HAVE THIS?!
I'M GLAD THAT I MANAGED TO GET IT FAIRLY QUICKLY.

...

NAH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I CAN GET ONE ON MY OWN TIME.
IT SHOULD BE YOUR-
B-BUT, DON'T YOU LIKE PETEN-CHAN TOO, KAORU...?

THANKS A LOT.

I...

I'LL DEFINITELY CHERISH IT.

?

SHE SURE IS HONEST ABOUT HER FEELINGS AT TIMES LIKE THIS.

«NEXT

LEVEL 4 SO YOU'RE A NICE PERSON AFTER ALL, HUH?

AT LEAST, THAT'S TRUE OF MOST HOBBIES.

TIME SPENT WITH A FRIEND WHO SHARES YOUR INTERESTS TENDS TO BE ENJOYABLE.

CLOOMY JUST RESTOCKED!

M14

MACHINE

UGH...

ARGH!

Lose

BUT...

YEAH, YEAH.

MY MOVES WENT OFF FASTER ON MY SCREEN!

I ONLY LOST 'CUZ THERE WAS LAG!*

THAT'S NOT ALWAYS THE CASE FOR GAMERS, APPARENTLY.

*LAG IS A CATCH-ALL EXCUSE FOR GAMERS. IT USUALLY DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING.

YOU KNOW THAT MEANS I WAS ON THE VERGE OF A 10-MATCH *LOSING* STREAK, RIGHT?

I FINALLY MANAGED TO WIN ONE...

WORKOUT

UGH, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO HIT A 10-MATCH WINNING STREAK!

NO! I WANT TO END ON A WIN!

SO DO I.

FOR REAL?

WE'VE PLAYED IT ENOUGH. LET'S GO PLAY SOMETHING ELSE.

I REFUSE TO LET THINGS END LIKE THIS!

LET'S GO AGAIN! ONE MORE TIME!

UGH...

I'M GONNA LEAVE YOU BEHIND, NANAMI.

?

IF WE PLAY ONE MORE MATCH AND YOU END UP WINNING...

O-OH!

HOW ABOUT THIS, KAORU?

JOLT

UH,

WOULD THAT WORK...?

THEN I WOULDN'T MIND TAGGING ALONG WITH YOU TO WHEREVER YOU WANNA GO AFTER THIS.

SOUNDS GOOD.

ONE MORE MATCH, THEN! AND NO HARD FEELINGS NO MATTER WHO WINS OR LOSES!

W-WELL,

I-IF I WIN, THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER GAME I PICK!

HUH?

H-HOW COME YOU'RE SO EXCITED ABOUT THIS?!

WAIT, REALLY?!

YOU SURE?!

GAME, SET, MATCH!

Game Set

Lose...

SHE DIDN'T HOLD BACK AT ALL...

Win!

NOW THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!

I WANTED THE CHANCE TO PULL OFF SOME FLAWLESS GAMEPLAY!

UHM... KAORU...

?

WELL, UH, I KINDA ACCIDEN-TALLY WENT ALL OUT, SO...

TUG

TUG

...

...

WHEW! I'M SATISFIED NOW.

SO YOU'RE A NICE PERSON AFTER ALL, HUH?

YOU KNOW, YOU TAGGED ALONG WITH ME HERE TO BEGIN WITH...

SO, UHM, LET'S GO SOMEWHERE YOU WANT TO GO TO NEXT, YEAH?

«NEXT

LEVEL 5

ISN'T THIS A GATHERING PLACE FOR NORMIES?!

CLINK カチャ

KAO-RU...

I *DID* SAY THAT I WOULDN'T MIND TAGGING ALONG WHER-EVER YOU WANTED TO GO.

BUT...

¥480

ISN'T THIS A GATHERING PLACE FOR NORMIES?!

WHY *HERE* OF ALL PLACES?!

BELIEVE ME, I DIDN'T KNOW THIS WAS A POPULAR DATE SPOT UNTIL WE GOT HERE!

WHY'D YOU WANT TO COME TO A CREPE SHOP IN THE FIRST PLACE?

YOU LIKE CREPES?

NOT GONNA HAPPEN.

THAT'S WHAT WORRIES YOU?

WHAT IF SOMEONE COMES UP TO US AND TELLS US TO GET OUT BECAUSE WE'RE NOT A COUPLE?

ARE WE GOING TO BE OKAY?

UGH, THE ROMANTIC AURA IS TOO MUCH...

B-DMP

B-DMP

SO, I WANTED TO TAKE YOU HERE, AND-

YOU MENTIONED EARLIER HOW YOU LIKE SWEETS TOO...

WELL, I SAW IT OPENED RECENTLY WHEN I WAS LOOKING SOMETHING UP.

I'M NOT MAD!

ARE YOU MAD ABOUT SOME-THING?

NOPE, I'M FINE!

HUH? SOME-THING WRONG, NANAMI?

«NEXT

▪YOU'RE NOT HELPING YOUR CASE.

LEVEL 6 THIS IS THE RIGHT TRAIN, RIGHT?

MY FRIEND, NANAMI SAKA, IS A GIRL WHO LOVES VIDEO GAMES.

La Crêpe

New item!

¥480

LATELY, SHE GOT HOOKED ON A NEW GAME.

AND LAST NIGHT, SHE STAYED UP ALL NIGHT YET AGAIN PLAYING IT BEFORE WE MET UP TODAY.

SO, AS A RESULT...

UGH...

ARGH ...!

...

I'M SO TIRED...

STRONG URGE TO SLEEP...

I CAN'T GO ON FOR ANY LONGER ...

I'M AT MY LIMIT...

SHE RAN OUT OF JUICE.

ARE YOU GONNA MAKE IT, NANAMI?

UGH...

I'M LIKE AN OLD HANDHELD WITH A BLACK-AND-WHITE SCREEN THAT'S ABOUT TO DIE...

DIM

SORRY, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

C'MON, LET'S JUST LEAVE.

IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE PEOPLE WAITING FOR SEATS.

AND WE'LL GET YELLED AT BY THE STAFF IF YOU SLEEP HERE, SO-

ARMA-DILLO SLEEPING POSITION.

WE'RE LEAVING, NANAMI.

NOOO, LET ME SLEEP...

LEMME... ZZZ...

DRAG

MMGH...

DRAG

I'M GLAD WE WERE ABLE TO FIND SEATS, BUT...

...THIS IS THE RIGHT TRAIN, RIGHT?

WHEW...

カタン
KA-TUNK

KA-TUNK
カタン

I CAN'T TRUST THAT ANSWER ...

YEAH...

...HUH?

...

HUH?

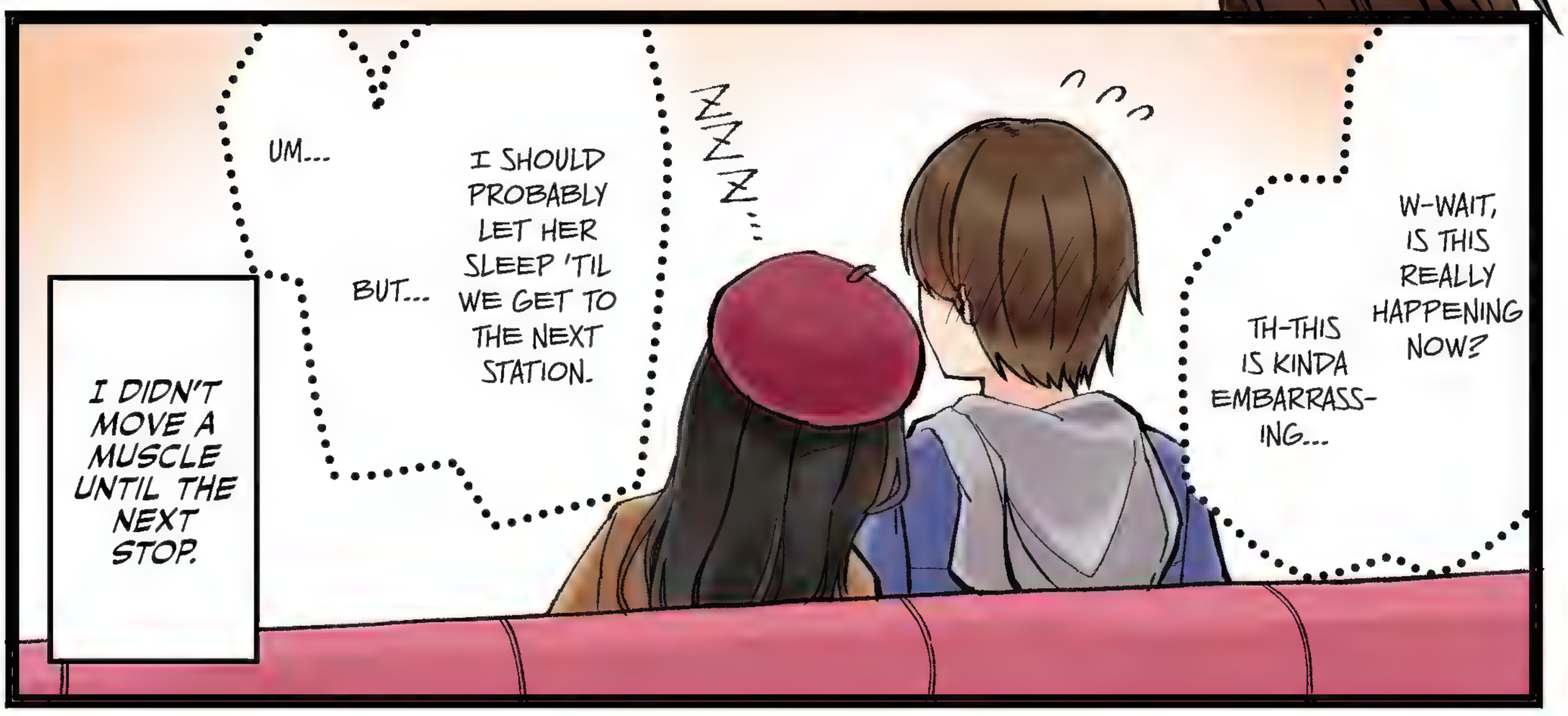
BUT I'VE ONLY BEEN TO NANAMI'S HOUSE ONCE BEFORE, SO I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THE EXACT DIRECTIONS...

IT'D PROBABLY BE BEST TO DROP HER OFF AT HER HOUSE SINCE SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP SOMEWHERE LIKE A CAFÉ...

BUMP

LET'S SEE. I THINK WE HAVE TO GET OFF AT THE NEXT STATION, THEN...

ZZZ...
す
ー
…


I DIDN'T MOVE A MUSCLE UNTIL THE NEXT STOP.
UM...
BUT...
I SHOULD PROBABLY LET HER SLEEP 'TIL WE GET TO THE NEXT STATION.
ZZZ...
TH-THIS IS KINDA EMBARRASS-ING...
W-WAIT, IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING NOW?

«NEXT

YEAH.
IT'S RIGHT THERE, SEE?
OH.
YOU SHOULD BE FINE FROM HERE THEN, RIGHT?
YAWN あふ
YOUR HOUSE IS AROUND HERE, RIGHT, NANAMI?
YEAH. SEE YOU LATER.
OH, YEAH...
TH-THANKS FOR HANGING OUT WITH-
LEVEL 7
WHY DON'T YOU HANG OUT HERE
I'M JUST PREPARING TO FLEE IN CASE YOUR DAD HAPPENS TO BE HOME.
WHY ARE YOU STAND-ING SO FAR AWAY?
NANAMI'S FATHER:
OVERPROTECTIVE AND SUPER MUSCULAR.

OH.

IS THAT SO?

...

OH, MY DAD'S NOT HOME.

HE SAID HE WAS GOING OUT WITH MY MOM AROUND NOON.

ドド

DO YOU THINK I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ON MY OWN OR SOMETHING?

I'LL BE FINE.

WILL YOU BE OKAY AT HOME BY YOURSELF?

I'M WORRIED.

HUH?

OH, I HAVE AN IDEA.

WHAT ABOUT THIS?

PLEASE, THERE'S NOTHI–

NO, I MEAN THAT I'M KINDA WORRIED SINCE THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE AROUND, SO...

MY MOM AND DAD WON'T BE HOME FOR A BIT...

SO WHY DON'T YOU HANG OUT HERE WHILE THEY'RE AWAY?

WE CAN PLAY SOME GAMES TOGETHER IN THE MEANTIME, AND-

UM, WELL...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...

THAT WOULD BE KINDA AWKWARD, YOU KNOW?

ATTRACTED TO HIS FRIEND.

BL?

わたし

?!

ハッ

REALIZED THAT HER FRIEND FINDS HER ATTRACTIVE.

Y-YO!

W-WELCOME HOME! (?!?!)

I'M GOING HOME!

F-FORGET WHAT I JUST SAID, OKAY?!

«NEXT

LEVEL 8

I TYPED IN THE WRONG WINDOW?!

OHIGE

NANAMI AND KAORU'S GUILDMASTER IN THE ONLINE GAME THEY PLAY. GROWS MOSS BALLS AS A HOBBY.

HUH?

DIDYA GET IN A FIGHT WITH KAORI-CHAN OR SOME-THING?

Nanami

WHAT'S UP, NANAMI?

IS THIS ANOTHER JOKE OF YOURS OR SOMETHING? 'CUZ YOUR BEARD IS ENOUGH OF ONE ALREADY.

I'LL TEACH YOU THE SECRETS OF HOW TO MAKE UP WITH A GIRL!

HOW 'BOUT SOME ADVICE FROM SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN AROUND THE BLOCK?

YOU'VE BEEN AVOIDING KAORI-CHAN RECENTLY, HAVEN'T YOU?

I DOUBT YOU'VE BEEN AROUND THIS BLOCK.

Nanami

WHERE'S THIS COMING FROM?

I CAN'T TELL HIM...

Nanami

<<CHAT>>

OHIGE >> NANAMI: FEEL FREE TO TALK TO ME IF YO
EED HELP.
HIGE >> NANAMI: I'M ALWAYS AVAILABLE!
ANAMI >> OHIGE: SURE, SURE.

Nanami

<<CHAT>>

OHIGE >> NANAMI: FEEL FREE TO TALK TO ME IF YOU NEED HELP.
OHIGE >> NANAMI: I'M ALWAYS AVAILABLE!
NANAMI >> OHIGE: SURE, SURE.

WHERE WOULD I EVEN BEGIN?!

I'D THOUGHT KAORI-CHAN WAS A GIRL, BUT SHE'S ACTUALLY A GUY, AND I'M REALLY A GIRL MYSELF EVEN THOUGH I PLAY AS A MALE CHARACTER.

WE WERE HANGING OUT TOGETHER AND GOT TOO SELF-CONSCIOUS AT THE IDEA OF BEING ALONE AT MY HOUSE, AND EVER SINCE THEN, OUR CONVERSATIONS HAVE BEEN SUPER AWKWARD.

KLAK カタ

KLAKA カタッ

I GUESS I'LL SEE IF I CAN FIND ANYTHING USEFUL ONLINE...

ALL RIGHT, THAT'S IT...

I DON'T WANT THINGS TO BE WEIRD WITH KAORU FOREVER, THOUGH...

?

PRESS カーソル

Enter

POP!

<<CHAT>>

NANAMI: WAYS TO MAKE UP WITH FRIENDS

GAME CHAT WINDOW

<<CHAT>>

NANAMI: WAYS TO MAKE UP WITH FRIENDS

GOOGLE

EEP!

I TYPED IN THE WRONG WINDOW?!*

*HAPPENS SOMETIMES WHEN YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION WHILE TYPING.

SLOWLY ZZZ

SAW THE CHAT MESSAGE

?

SAW THE CHAT MESSAGE

WHIRL

TH-THAT MEANS...

W-WAIT, I TYPED IT IN THE GUILD CHAT AS WELL!

IRL

UO TWITCH

UO TWITCH

SAW THE CHAT MESSAGE

...

GAAA

OH, DINNER'S ALMOST READY!

OH MY. SHE SURE IS FULL OF ENERGY TODAY.

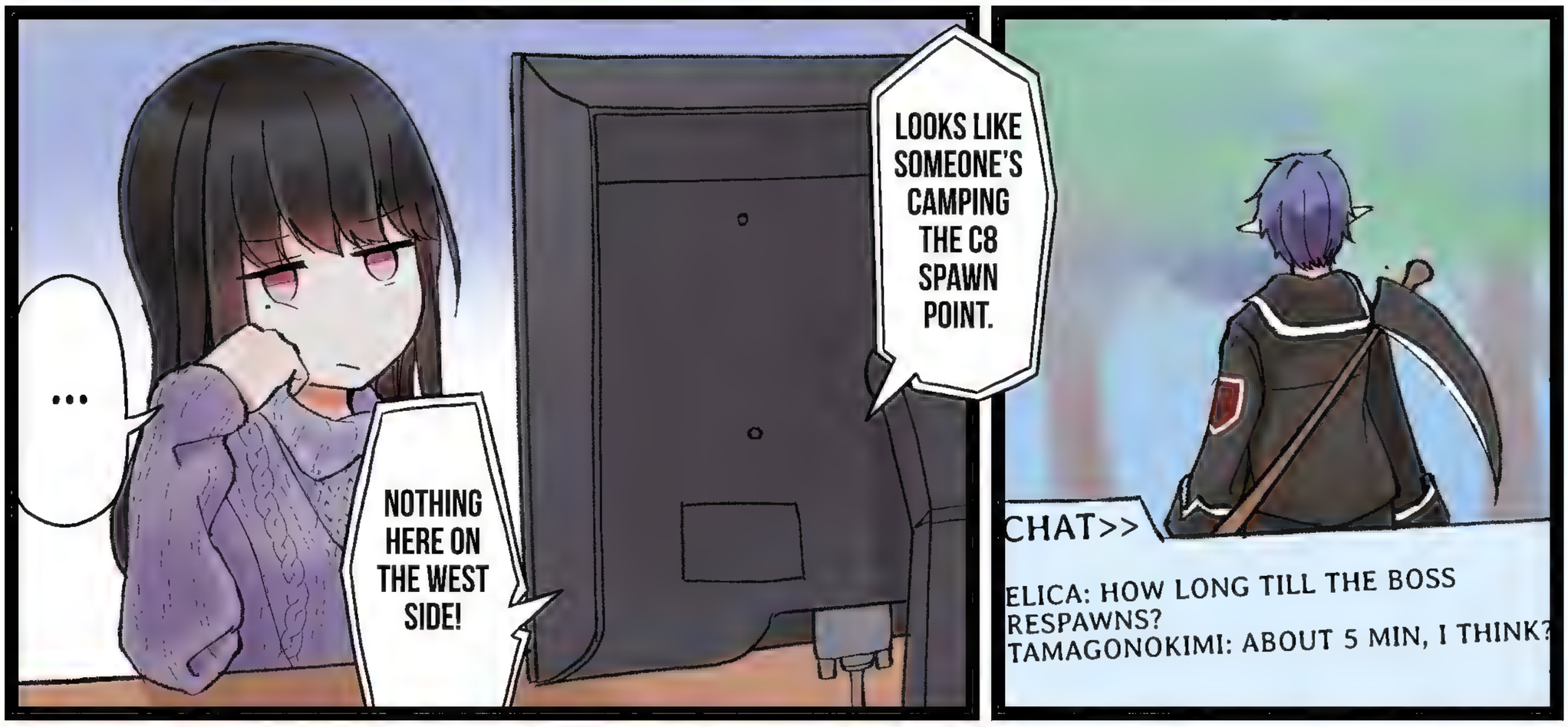
H- HON- EY!

DIDJA HEAR A SCREAM FROM NANAMI'S ROOM JUST NOW?!

GAAA

«NEXT

LEVEL 9 I'M GLAD WE BECAME FRIENDS



<<CHAT>>

NANAMI: WAYS TO MAKE UP WITH

THIS.

I REALLY WANNA KNOW WHAT HE THINKS ABOUT WHAT I MISTYPED EARLIER...

WHY HAVEN'T YOU SAID ANYTHING IN THE CHAT, KAORU?

DING

KAORU TERASAKI

DING

BEEP

JUMP

DING♪ DING

OH, HEY, NANAMI.

ARE YOU OKAY FOR-

UH...

...HELLO?

YEAH, IT IS! WHAT ABOUT IT?!

ISN'T IT YOUR OWN FAULT THAT YOU MIS-TYPED?

HOW CAN YOU ASK IF I'M OKAY?! YOU MADE ME ALL SELF-CONSCIOUS 'CUZ OF THOSE AWKWARD THINGS YOU SAID A WHILE BACK, AND OHIGE WAS TEASING ME ABOUT IT RIGHT BEFORE I MISTYPED IN THE CHAT! IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!

WELL...

IT'S JUST THAT IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE LAST DID THIS KIND OF THING TOGETHER.

COUGH

ALL RIGHT, WHAT'D YA CALL ME FOR?

PLEASE, WE'RE EVEN ON THAT, AREN'T WE?

BUT...

...I DIDN'T THINK THE OTHER PERSON BEHIND THE SCREEN WAS ACTUALLY A GIRL, THOUGH.

OH, YEAH...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE...

AND WE'D BOTH FALL ASLEEP AFTER WE WERE DONE.

WE'D CHAT ABOUT PETEN-CHAN ALL NIGHT LONG...

HUH?

I MEAN, WE USED TO DO THIS ALL THE TIME, BEFORE, RIGHT?

WE'D HANG OUT WHILE CAMPING MONSTERS.

NOT ON VOICE, THOUGH.

I...

...
I FEEL THE SAME WAY...

ほんっ
WHISPER

Y'KNOW...

GENDER DOESN'T REALLY MATTER TO ME WHEN IT COMES TO THIS.

I'M GLAD WE BECAME FRIENDS, NANAMI.

I REALLY AM.

...

«NEXT

ALSO, WHY'S OHIGE-SAN LOOKING ALL PROUD OF HIMSELF?
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
SAD
SAD
BOTH OF YOU?!
YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU WERE SO CAUGHT UP THAT YOU MISSED THE BOSS SPAWN?!

Sometimes Even Reality Is a Lie!

LEVEL 10 I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAVE TO WEAR THESE CLOTHES AGAIN

OH.

LET'S CALL IT A NIGHT HERE-

...

DON'T JUST SUDDENLY TRY TO END THE CALL LIKE THAT!

HEAR ME OUT!

KAORU...

I NEED YOUR HELP...

UH-HUH.

CAN YOU GET TO THE POINT?

BLAH BLAH

I TOLD HER ABOUT YOU QUITE A WHILE AGO, SO...

SHE'S A VERY ENERGETIC AND STUBBORN PERSON THAT WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER...

SHE'S MY COUSIN, AND, WELL...

YOU SEE, THERE'S SOMEONE I KNOW WHO WANTS TO MEET YOU, KAORU.

IT'S JUST A JOKE, HA HA.

WHAT'S WRONG?

NEVER MIND.

CAN YOU GO INTO DETAIL ABOUT THAT FIRST?

HOW DID YOU EVEN COME TO THAT?

WELL...

I WANT YOU TO CROSS-DRESS AGAIN.

THE NEXT DAY.

UGH...

I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAVE TO WEAR THESE CLOTHES AGAIN...

...

OH, THERE YOU ARE.

KAO-RU-

...

YOU KNOW, GIRLS' CLOTHES REALLY DO SUIT YOU.

I FEEL LIKE YOUR LIFE WOULD IMPROVE IF YOU SPENT THE ENTIRETY OF IT CROSS-DRESSED.

YEAH, NO.

SO ANYWAY, NANAMI,

YOU SAID SOMEONE ELSE WAS COMING TO-

NA...

...NA...

YOU DOIN' GOOD?!

...MIII!

NANAMI'S COUSIN
ISUMI TAKEKAWA

NOT AS WELL AS YOU, ISUMI.

OH!

WHERE'S THE GIRL YOU TOLD ME ABOUT?

YEAH, YEAH, ONE DAY. MORE IMPORTANT-LY...

AND HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU TO FIX THAT GLOMP-ING HABIT OF YOURS?

YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT, LIKE, FASHION AND MAKEUP STUFF, RIGHT?

MY NAME'S ISUMI TAKEKAWA! I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU FROM NANAMI!

?!

SO YOU'RE KAORI-CHAN!

NICE TO MEETCHA!

HUUG

...

BLUSH

NANAMI SOUNDED SO HAPPY WHENEVER SHE'D TALK ABOUT YOU, I WANTED TO MEET YOU MYSELF!

HMM?

OUCH!

PINCH

HUH?!

?!

HMPH!

TWINGE

TWINGE

«NEXT

LEVEL 11

SINCE WHEN DID YOU GET SO STACKED?

~~STILL~~ CROSS-DRESSED.

BUT MY BIRTHDAY'S EARLIER IN THE YEAR, SO I'M TECHNICALLY OLDER.

NANAMI AND I ARE THE SAME AGE.

LEMME START OVER. I'M ISUMI TAKEKA-WA.

AND I'M NANAMI'S COUSIN.

LET'S BE PALS!

IN A WAY, THAT MEANS I'M LIKE NANAMI'S BIG SISTER!

YEP!

...

ふんす
PROUD

IS THIS A FIGHT BETWEEN KIDS?

WHINE

ONLY BY FOUR CENTI-METERS!

PFFT

YOU'RE SHORTER THAN ME, THOUGH.

HMPH! FINE, YOU GOT ME THERE.

HOWEVER, EVEN IF YOU'RE A BIT TALL-ER...

!

...OUR GROWTH *HERE* ISN'T THAT DIF-FEREN-

TOUCH

squish

squishy

!?

...

...

DON'T PRETEND TO BE THE VICTIM WHEN YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SEXUALLY HARASSED ME!

FIZZLE

YOU'VE GROWN UP SO FAST...

NANA-MI...

...SINCE WHEN DID YOU GET SO STACKED?

HMM?

OUCH-IES...

すと FLAAAAT ん

?

00:00

...

...

YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA!

I'VE FOUND A COMRADE!

WE BECAME FRIENDS.

«NEXT

LEVEL 12 I FEEL LIKE I'M ABOUT TO DISCOVER A NEW FETISH

OH, REALLY? IF THAT'S THE CASE...

WHY ARE WE HERE?

ANYWAY, WE'RE NOT HERE TODAY TO BUY CLOTHES FOR ME.

TO BUY CLOTHES FOR *YOU*.

WHAT ELSE?

THOSE ARE THE ONLY CLOTHES YOU HAVE FOR CROSS-DRESSING, RIGHT?

IT'D BE WEIRD IF YOU SHOWED UP IN THE SAME OUTFIT EVERY TIME YOU MET MY DAD OR ISUMI...

SO WE'RE GOING TO FIND YOU SOME CUTE OUTFITS.

DOES THAT MEAN I HAVE TO WEAR GIRLS' CLOTHES NO MATTER WHAT?

STOP WHINING AND JUST ACCEPT IT.

LET'S GO LOOK AROUND.

FINE.

HMM...

I MEAN, I DON'T MIND LOOKING AROUND...

I'M WITH YOU.

IT'S NOT LIKE I KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT EITHER.

WAIT...

WHY DON'T *YOU* KNOW ANYTHING?

AREN'T YOU A GIRL?

BUT...

I'M TOTALLY CLUELESS WHEN IT COMES TO GIRLS' FASHION...

EEP?!

I WORK HERE!

HELLO! WHAT KIND OF CLOTHES MIGHT YOU BE LOOKING FOR?

THAT'S ALL WE NEED TO—

WE CAN JUST ASK A SALESPERSON FOR ADVICE.

WHY IS SHE SO EXCITED ABOUT THIS?!

STARTLED

OH, I SEE. ARE YOU LOOKING FOR WOMENSWEAR?

PLEASE LEAVE IT TO ME!

OH.

YOU'RE BACK FOR MORE CLOTHES?

A WIG MIGHT BE CUTE TOO!

LET'S GO FOR A WHOLE NEW LOOK!

!...

!...

O-OH.

THANK YOU...

ME, "CUTE"?

VERY CUTE!

UM...

HOW DO I LOOK?

WEIRD?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, NANAMI?

STARE

ぽ～

NANA-MI?

I FEEL LIKE I'M ABOUT TO DISCOVER A NEW FETISH...

UN-DISCOVER IT.

ドすっ…

TINGLE

«NEXT

LEVEL 13 WE'LL GO WITH A PRIVATE ROOM

MANGA VOLUMES AND INTERNET PROVIDED

Soundproof rooms with air conditioning

Officially authorized internet café

WHOA!

SO THIS IS ONE OF THOSE INTERNET CAFÉS I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO!

HYPE

HYPE

WAIT, YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO ONE BEFORE?!

WELL...

YOU CAN PLAY GAMES HERE, AFTER ALL.

I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU'D BE A REGULAR. I'M SHOCKED.

人見知りシャイネーション

SHYNESS BARRIER

I DON'T REALLY WANT TO TALK TO THE STAFF.

OH, I SEE...

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW THINGS WORKED AT AN INTERNET CAFÉ, SO...

THINGS LIKE THE COST OR CLUB CARDS.

COULDN'T YOU JUST ASK ONE OF THE STAFF?

WELCOME.

SLIDE

INTERNET CAFÉ

Alice

LAYOUT

PUBLIC
•SPACIOU
•DRINKS

PRIVATE ROOMS
PARTY TOGETHER WITH YOUR FRIENDS! A SOUNDPROOF PRIVATE ROOM WHERE YOU CAN RELAX!

ROOM FOR 1-4 PEOPLE

WOULD YOU LIKE SEATS IN THE PUBLIC SPACE OR A PRIVATE ROOM?

HMM... LET'S SEE...

OKAY.

WE'LL GO WITH THAT, THEN.

OUR CURRENT SPECIAL COMES WITH FREE DRINK REFILLS FOR TWO HOURS.

?!

WE'LL GO WITH A PRIVATE ROOM.

...

I MEAN, I WOULDN'T MIND SEATS IN THE PUBLIC SPACE... SO, YEAH...

IT'LL JUST BE THE TWO OF US ALONE IN A PRIVATE ROOM—

?

K-KA...

K-KAO-RU...?

HUH? WAIT, UM...

WHA-AAAA-AT?!

VERY WELL.

WE'LL STICK WITH A PRIVATE ROOM.

BUT...

I MEAN, THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE LIKE HIM WOULD DO ANYTHING WEIRD, BUT...

BUT WHY?!

WAIT, HUH?! DO YOU WANT TO BE IN A ROOM ALONE WITH ME THAT BADLY, KAO-RU?!

B-BMP

B-BMP

BAM!

AAAG-GGHH!!!

GET AWAY FROM MEEE!!!

I HAD A FEELING THIS WAS GONNA HAPPEN...

ENJOY YOUR TIME HERE

THANK YOU VERY MUCH... FOR CHOOSING THIS SOUND-PROOFED ROOM.

GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU JERK!!!

HARGH!!!

«NEXT

SHARKY

...

...

CAME OVER TO HANG OUT.

LEVEL 13.5

I MEAN, COME ON! ISN'T IT CUTE?!

UM...

W-WHAT?!

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, THEN GO AHEAD AND SAY IT!

WELL, IT'S JUST, YOU KNOW ...

HOW DO I PUT IT...

I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE THE TYPE WHO KEPT UP WITH TRENDS LIKE THIS...

HUG

BLA~H

I MEAN, COME ON!

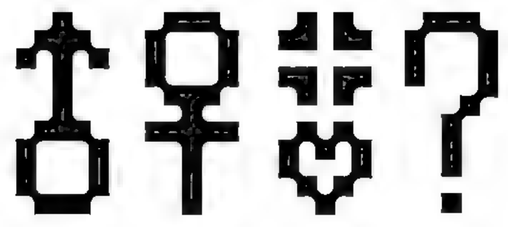
ISN'T IT CUTE?!

LOOK AT IT!

DON'T JUDGE ME!

▪ I'D LIKE TO GET MY HANDS ON ONE TOO.

«NEXT



Sometimes
Even Reality
Is a Lie!

PRESENTED BY NIICHI

LEVEL 14

NANAMI MIGHT START AVOIDING YOU♡

I'M GOING OUT!

HONEY...

AH, WELL...

IT'S TRUE THAT SHE BARELY WENT OUTSIDE IN THE PAST, BUT...

DON'T YOU THINK NANAMI'S BEEN GOIN' OUT A LOT RECENTLY?

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

BUT...

I CAN'T HELP BUT WORRY...

LET'S HAVE SOME TEA.

I DOUBT THERE'S ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

IT'S HEALTHIER FOR HER TO GO OUT THAN STAYING IN HER ROOM ALL DAY, ISN'T IT?

SHE'S ALSO STARTED GETTING INTERESTED IN FASHION MAGAZINES...

*LOOKING FOR CLOTHES FOR KAORU TO CROSS-DRESS IN.

SHE'S BEEN TALKIN' A LOT WITH SOME-BODY ONLINE LATELY...

*DISCUSS-ING GAME STRATEGIES OVER VOICE CHAT.

OUR DAUGHTER'S JUST GROWING INTO HER OWN, NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT.

THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

...THE HECK'S HAPPENED TO HER?

I MEAN, KAORI-CHAN DOES SEEM LIKE A NICE GIRL, AND NANAMI GETS ALONG WITH HER, BUT...

HMM ...

DAD

MOM

THEY'RE ALWAYS TOGETHER WHENEVER THEY GO OUT. SHE'LL BE FINE.

BE-SIDES...

YOU'VE MET HER FRIEND AS WELL, RIGHT?

THAT GIRL, KAORI-CHAN.

...

LIKE, WHAT IF THEY GET HIT ON BY SOME ASSH-

Y'KNOW ...

I'M STILL WORRIED ABOUT THEM...

HUH?

JOLT

LISTEN TO ME, DARLING.

NANAMI MIGHT START AVOIDING YOU.♡

IT'S FINE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT OUR DAUGHTER, BUT IF YOU TAKE IT TOO FAR...

DEJECTED しょんぼり

DAD?

I'M BACK!

«NEXT

LEVEL 15 OBVIOUSLY, I'M MEETING UP WITH YOU

I HAVEN'T WEIGHED MYSELF RECENTLY.

OH YEAH.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...

WELL, I DON'T GAIN WEIGHT EASILY...

SO IT SHOULD BE MORE OR LESS THE SAME AS THE LAST TIME-

...

HUH?!

ナーシ ョック

SO YEAH...

THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED.

I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO EXERCISE A BIT.

SO WHY'D YOU DRAG ME INTO THIS?

HUH?!

IT'S YOUR FAULT, SO YOU NEED TO EXERCISE WITH ME!

THE WHOLE REASON I GAINED WEIGHT IS BECAUSE YOU BROUGHT ME OUT TO CAFÉS AND SUCH!

EEP?!

NICE AND BIG

ひろびろ～

HOW DOES JOGGING A LAP AROUND THE PARK SOUND?

ALL RIGHT, LET'S START WITH THIS.

I'VE BEEN SLACKING LATELY ON WORKING OUT ANYWAY.

WELL, I GUESS I DON'T REALLY MIND.

IT'S JUST THAT I'M NOT USED TO HEAVY EXERCISE RIGHT AWAY, SO...

WELL, UM...

WHAT'S WITH THAT RESPONSE?

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

HOW ABOUT WE START BY TAKING A WALK FIRST?

30 MINUTES LATER...

HUU... PANT

HUU... PANT

ARGH...

I CAN'T GO ON...

I'M GONNA PUKE...

DON'T PUKE.

THAT WAS A GOOD WORK-OUT.

HERE, I'VE GOT A SPORTS DRINK FOR YOU.

HERE'S A TOWEL TOO.

BY WHAT?

THE FACT THAT EVEN YOU CARE ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU WEIGH.

HEY!

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

I GOTTA SAY, I WAS SURPRISED.

HOW MANY CALORIES DID I MANAGE TO BURN FROM THIS?

THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T CARE ABOUT THINGS LIKE YOUR WEIGHT.

WELL, IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE A HOMEBODY, SO YOU PROBABLY DON'T GO OUTSIDE TO MEET PEOPLE OFTEN.

OBVIOUSLY, I'M MEETING UP WITH YOU...

ぼ～っ
MUTTER

IT'S NOTHING!

DID YOU JUST SAY SOMETHING, NANAMI?

HM?

«NEXT

Sometimes Even Reality Is a Lie!

LEVEL 16 SHE MEANS IT'S JUST CHOCOLATE BETWEEN FRIENDS

OH YEAH!

VALENTINE'S DAY IS COMING UP, ISN'T IT?

SALE 2/1~2/14

2/1~2/14 VALEN-TINE'S DAY

ARE THERE ANY GUYS YOU'LL BE GIVING CHOCOLATES TO, NANAMI?

OF COURSE NOT.

STOP PINCHING ME.

ぷに PINCH

ぷに PINCH

HA HA!

OH RIGHT, YOU CAN'T STAND BOYS.

?

WELL...

IN THAT CASE, I HAVE AN IDEA!

OH, Y'KNOW, IT'S NORMAL FOR FRIENDS TO GIVE EACH OTHER VALENTINES.

FRIENDS?!

W-WHAT?!

W-WHY WOULD I GIVE ANY TO KAORI?!

WHAT IF YOU JUST GIVE SOME CHOCOLATES TO KAORI-CHAN INSTEAD?

SPIT

KAORI'S MY FRIEND, BUT KAORI IS JUST KAORU CROSS-DRESSING AS A GIRL, SO WHILE IT WOULDN'T BE WEIRD FOR ME TO GIVE HIM CHOCOLATES AS A FRIEND WOULD WEIRD KAORI OUT IF I GAVE HIM CHOCOLATES AS A DIFFERENT KIND OF FRIEND, AND ALTHOUGH IT'S ROMANTICALLY UNCONSCIOUS ABOUT IT, I'M SUPER CONSCIOUS ABOUT IT, SO I'M IN AN AWKWARD SITUATION WHERE I WOULD WEIRD KAORI OUT IF I GAVE HIM CHOCOLATES AS A FRIEND, BUT I

HMM...

WHY DID NANAMI SUDDENLY ASK ME TO MEET UP WITH HER?

Nanami

I'll be free around 2.

2 it is, then. Cross-dress and meet at the usual place.

Also, I told Isumi that you have a complex about your deep voice as a girl, so you can talk from now on.

KAORI!

IT'S NOT LIKE A NEW GAME OR PETEN-CHAN MERCH IS COMING OUT TODAY, SO...

WHOA!

ISUMI-SAN?!

'SUP! MY COMRADE!

GLOMP

HUH?

TA-DAH

WHAT'S UP-

AND... NANAMI?

Love for You

OH, ARE THESE CHOCO-LATES?

LET'S EXCHANGE CHOCOLATES TODAY!

SHE MEANS IT'S JUST CHOCOLATE BETWEEN FRIENDS.

I'M GONNA GET FAT!

WE ALL EXCHANGED CHOCOLATES WITH EACH OTHER.

HERE.

↑ WENT TO BUY SOME CHOCOLATE.

HERE YA GO.

↑ PREPARED BEFOREHAND.

AFTER-WARDS...

«NEXT

LEVEL 17 IT'S COLD RIGHT NOW

Collaboration Cafeteri

5:00 A.M.

ウ ウウエ
WOOOOOOSH

NICE!

WE'RE THE FIRST ONES HERE!

DID WE HAVE TO LINE UP THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING, NANAMI?

OF COURSE! THIS IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL PETEN-CHAN* CAFÉ EVENT!

DON'T YOU WANNA BE THE VERY FIRST TO EXPERI-ENCE IT?

I MEAN, I DO, BUT...

*A GAME CHARACTER NANAMI AND KAORU BOTH LIKE.

ARE YOU GONNA BE OKAY IN JUST THOSE CLOTHES?

TODAY'S SUPPOSED TO BE PRETTY COLD, SO...

HEH HEH!

I'LL BE FINE!

MY FIERY PASSION FOR PETEN-CHAN KEEPS ME IMPERVIOUS TO THE COLD!

5:10 A.M.

SHIVER

SHIVER

SHIVER

SHIVER

UH... NO DUH.

I-IT'S...

IT'S C-COLD...

K-KA...

K-KAO-RU...

HA HA!

THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, NANA-MI!

I NEVER IMAGINED THAT I'D HAVE TO GO OUTSIDE WHILE IT WAS THIS COLD.

I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING.

LIKE AT ALL.

WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST WEAR SOMETHING HEAVIER?

HERE.

ACHOO!

I'M GOOD AT DEALING WITH THE COLD, SO-

I'LL BE FINE.

...

YOU'LL GET A STIFF NECK FROM THE COLD WITH THAT OUT-FIT, SO WEAR THIS.

B-BUT...

THE SAME APPLIES FOR YOU, DOESN'T IT?

HUH?!

!

WRAP

Cafeteria

MM...

IT'S JUST...

IT'S COLD RIGHT NOW...

SO, Y'KNOW ...?

WE SPENT ABOUT FOUR HOURS THERE WAITING FOR THE CAFÉ TO OPEN.

«NEXT

LEVEL 18

WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH MY FRIEND HERE?

THIS SUCKS.

...

LET'S GET SOME COFFEE TOGETHER! IT'LL BE MY TREAT!

COME ON, IT'S JUST FOR A BIT.

COME ON, GIMME A CHANCE!

TRUST ME, IT'LL BE WORTH YOUR WHILE!

I GOT HERE EARLIER THAN USUAL, SO I'M HERE BEFORE KAORU.

AND THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS.

GROSS...

EEP!

C'MON, LET'S GET GOING!

PULL

ARGH, KAORU! WHERE ARE YOU?! WHAT ARE YOU DO-ING?!

GET OVER HERE RIGHT NOW!

HUH? GROSS EARNINGS? OH, YEAH, I HAVE A TON OF MONEY! WHAT DO YOU WANNA EAT?!

I CAN PAY FOR ANYTHING! WANNA GO EAT SOME BBQ?!

KA...

はあ PANT

WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH MY FRIEND HERE?

CR-

AB

はあ PANT

THE MAIN TANK'S FINALLY ARRIVED!

KAORU!

PERFECT TIMING!

WHOA...

IF IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT, THEN WE'LL BE GOING.

...

...HUH?

WHOA!

DAMN, YOU'RE REALLY CUTE!

YOUR BROWN HAIR REALLY FITS YOU WELL! WANNA HANG OUT TOGETHER FOR A BIT?

OH, I DON'T MIND IF YOUR FRIEND WANTS TO HANG OUT WITH US AS WELL!

TICKED OFF

WAIT, BRO, HOLD ON...

I'M ACTUALLY NOT A GI—

OH, YOU DON'T USUALLY HEAR GIRLS USING "BRO"! THAT'S COOL!

YOUR VOICE SOUNDS QUITE DEEP TOO! LIKE WHAT YOU'D CALL A "HUSKY VOICE"?

UM, LISTEN...

ARE YOU OKAY, NANAMI?

GUYS THAT HIT ON GIRLS ARE PRETTY SCARY, HUH?

WHEW, HE FINALLY GAVE UP...

DEJECTED

POUT

...

THANKS, I GUESS...

WHAT?

HMPH! I COULD LOOK SUPER CUTE TOO, IF I WANTED TO...

MUTTER

MUTTER

I'M NOT MAD!

IS IT JUST ME, OR ARE YOU MAD-

NANA-MI?

«NEXT

LEVEL 19

WOULDN'T HALF OF THE CURRENT POPULATION WORK JUST FINE?

NANAMI, ARE YOU OKAY–

THERE SHE IS!

I THINK SHE SHOULD'VE ENDED UP AROUND HERE...

FOR THE HUMAN RACE...

WOULDN'T HALF OF THE CURRENT POPULATION WORK JUST FINE?

THAT IDEA'S WAY TOO EXTREME!

はぁ... PANT

はぁ... PANT

IN ANY CASE, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE FIRST.

I'M ALL WORN OUT!

I'M NOT FINE AT ALL!

WELL, I'M JUST GLAD THAT WE MANAGED TO MEET UP OKAY.

PAUSE

THE TRAIN ON PLATFORM FOUR WILL HAVE A DELAYED ARRIVAL TIME DUE TO THE DISCOVERY OF A PERSON ON THE TRACKS—

ATTENTION TO ALL PASSENGERS ON TRANSFER LINES.

BEFORE WE-

LOOMING

EVEN NPCS IN DYNASTY WARRIORS DON'T CROWD UP ON YOUR CHARACTER THIS MUCH!

UGH, WHAT'S WITH THIS CROWD?!

ISN'T IT ABOUT THE SAME?

KAORU, THE CROWD!

THE CROWD OF PEOPLE IS WALKING IN OUR DIRECTION?!

CALM DOWN, NANAMI!

FOLLOW ME!

KAORUUU!

GAAAH!

AGAIN ?!

!

...!

DID YOU GET HURT AT ALL, NANA-

WE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO MAKE IT OUT OF THERE.

WHEW.

GRASP

...

IT'S OKAY...

RELEASE

UH... MY BAD...

«NEXT

LEVEL 20 I'M NOT GOOD WITH KIDS!

HUH?!

MOMMY?

DOESN'T MATTER. JUST GET THIS LITTLE GIRL OFF ME.

I CAN'T MOVE.

I GUESS SHE MUST'VE CONFUSED YOU FOR HER MOM AND FOLLOWED YOU INSTEAD.

SHE'S JUST A LOST KID!

NONONO, THIS GIRL'S OBVIOUSLY NOT MY DAUGHTER!

NO WAY...

...NANA-MI?!

JO-

UGH!

I DON'T WANNA!

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GOTTEN ATTACHED TO YOU, SO IT WOULDN'T HURT TO STAY LIKE THIS WHILE WE LOOK FOR HER PARENTS, RIGHT?

LT

THEY ALWAYS CRY RIGHT AWAY AND ARE UNPREDICT-ABLE-

W-WEH...

I-I'M NOT GOOD WITH KIDS!

OH, GREAT...

WAA-AAAA-AH!

NANAMI, THAT'S A HORROR GAME.

DON'T EXPOSE A KID TO THAT.

H-HEY...

WANNA PLAY SOME GAMES AT THE ARCADE WITH US?

PLEASE?

TERROR

The nightmare before

PANIC

UM...

I'M SORRY!

SHE STARTED CRYING BECAUSE YOU RAISED YOUR VOICE.

OH, SHUT UP! IF I'M HER MOM HERE, THAT MAKES YOU HER DAD!

THE WAY YOU HELPED HER BLOW HER NOSE MAKES YOU SEEM LIKE HER REAL MOM.

FHBBBT

HERE. BLOW.

GOSH, YOUR FACE IS COVERED ALL OVER WITH SNOT—I MEAN...

HUH?

DADDY?

IT TOOK UNTIL HER ACTUAL PARENTS ARRIVED FOR THAT MISUNDER-STANDING TO CLEAR UP.

CHATTER

N-NO, WE'RE NOT! HOLD ON!

WHA—

DADDY!

MOMMY!

«NEXT

zzz

zzz

NANAMI?

YOU AWAKE?

LEVEL 21 YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WEIRD TO ME, DID YOU?

SHE WAS SO EXCITED ABOUT COMING HERE, I DIDN'T EXPECT HER TO PASS OUT IMMEDIATELY.

WELL, THEN.

すか～zzz…

NGH.

NN-NGH...

そ～…

SLOWLY

FIDGET

モゾ

I'LL COVER HER UP SO SHE DOESN'T CATCH A COLD.

SHE DID SAY SHE STAYED UP ALL NIGHT DOING QUESTS...

SO I GUESS SHE'S TIRED FROM THAT.

OH! THEY HAVE BLAN-KETS.

GRAB

SQUEEZE

OH-

CRAP!

NGH...

ROLL

SLIDE

もぞし PUSH

もぞし PUSH

ZZZ...

ZZZ

JUST PRETEND NOTHING HAPPENED

...

YEAH, THAT'S FOR THE BEST!

NGH...

O-
OH.

DID YOU HAVE A NICE NAP?
WE'RE AT A NET CAFE.

GLANCE

HM? DID I FALL ASLEEP?

WHERE AM I?

GLANCE

A NET CAFE?

Y-YEAH. YOU FELL ASLEEP ALMOST AS SOON AS WE GOT HERE.

HUH, I SEE...

...

HEY, KAO-RU...

CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?

JUST MAKING SURE, BUT...

YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING ***WEIRD*** TO ME, DID YOU?

WHY ARE YOU STUT-TERING?

O-OF C-COURSE N-NOT...!

WAIT! NANA-MI!

LET'S START THE GAME NOW.

SORRY THAT YOU HAD TO WAIT AROUND FOR ME.

STAB

GUILT

WELL...

THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT, SO FORGET I ASKED.

WHAT ?! YOU DID

OH.

B-DMP

B-DMP

YOU SEE...

OH...

OKAY...

HURRY UP AND LOG IN SO WE CAN PLAY.

COME ON!

WAIT, WHAT?

THAT'S ALL SHE HAS TO SAY?

カタ TYPE

カタ TYPE

WELL, I CAN'T REALLY BLAME YOU FOR AN ACCIDENT.

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU MEANT TO.

…

BLUSHあ

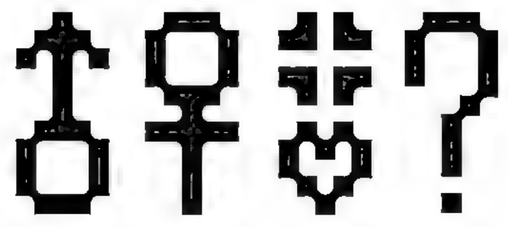
カタ…TYPE

I GOTTA STOP PULLING ALL-NIGHT-ERS...

MANGA VOLUMES AND INTERNET PROVIDED

THAT DOES IT.

«NEXT



Sometimes
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PRESENTED BY NIICHI

LEVEL 22 I DON'T REALLY MIND

YOUR TIME WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTENDED IF YOU GO OVER THE INITIAL TWO HOURS, SO PLEASE KEEP THAT IN MIND.

INTERNET CAFÉ Alice
TIME OF ENTRY: 3:36 P.M.
EXPECTED TIME OF EXIT: 5:36 P.M.

OKAY! SO THAT'LL BE TWO HOURS IN ONE OF OUR PRIVATE ROOMS.

ALL RIGHT! HAVE A GOOD TIME!

MM...

LET'S GO, NANAMI.

ACTING MANAGER
Kiyomizu

...

ARE YOU TIRED? TAKE A NAP IN THE ROOM.

MM-HMM...

YOU'RE THINKING OUT LOUD AGAIN, KIYOMIZU-SAN.

UGH, DAMMIT! THEY'RE ALL THE SAME. STUPID COUPLES ALL OVER EACH OTHER...

TCH

PART-TIME WORKER
SHIMAMURA-KUN
(AGE 21)

SOMEONE WHO'S SPENT EIGHTY PERCENT OF HER TWENTIES WATCHING COUPLES COME TO THE NET CAFE TO FLIRT.
KIYOMIZU-SAN
(AGE 28, SINGLE)

YOU REALLY HATE GETTING COUPLES, DON'T YOU?

OF COURSE I DO!

WE'VE GOT MANGA AND GAMES, RIGHT?

THOSE ARE MEANT TO BE ENJOYED ALONE!

AND YET, LOOK AT KIDS THESE DAYS!

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MANY OF THEM CAN FLIRT WHILE GAMING.

IT MAKES ME SO...

IT MAKES ME SO JEALOUS!

HUH?

CLENCH

THERE'RE LOTS OF WAYS TO MEET UP WITH PEOPLE NOW-ADAYS, SO-

IN THAT CASE, CAN'T YOU JUST LOOK FOR SOMEONE WHO'S INTO THE SAME THINGS AS YOU?

TWITCH

OH, SO YOU WERE JUST ENVIOUS OF THEM.

I WANT MY OWN BOYFRIEND WITH SIMILAR TASTES SO WE CAN BE NERDS TOGETHER...

DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY THAT YOU HATE GETTING COUPLES?

BEFORE I KNEW IT, I BECAME AN ACTING MANAGER WITH NO FREE TIME IN CHARGE OF A BUNCH OF THINGS LIKE LOOKING AFTER THE NEW HIRES AND SUCH. WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR MORE?

I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO FIND SOMEONE WHO ALSO LIKES MANGA AND GAMES AT AN INTERNET CAFE, SO THAT'S WHY I STARTED WORKING HERE, BUT THEN THE WORK AND RESPONSIBILI-TIES KEPT PILING ON AND ON...

OH, I'LL PASS.

SOUNDS LIKE A REAL RABBIT HOLE.

HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HE

YOU KNOW ...

THIS IS RELEVANT TO YOU AS WELL, SHIMA-MURA-KUN.

THAT SOUNDS ROUGH.

I'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE HERE WITHOUT EVER MEETING MY SOUL MATE...

UGH. I DON'T THINK I CAN FIND A DIFFERENT KIND OF JOB AT THIS POINT.

HUH?

WHY'S THAT?

I DON'T REALLY MIND.

WORKS OUT FOR ME.

KEEP THAT IN MIND, OKAY?

YOU'LL GET STUCK HERE IN NO TIME IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL.

YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, BUT DON'T TAKE THIS JOB LIGHTLY JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE PART-TIME.

WELL, YOU SEE...

IT APPEARS THE PERSON I LIKE WILL ALSO BE WORKING HERE FOREVER.

WHAT?

WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

NO ONE COMES TO MIND...

OH.

THERE'S A NEW CUSTOMER TO ATTEND TO.

WAIT, GET BACK HERE!

DON'T DODGE THE SUBJECT!

«NEXT

LEVEL 23

I HOPE I CAN HELP YOU MAKE MORE HAPPY MEMORIES

カサ…

RUSTLE

…

OH, I AM, BUT...

IT'S JUST BEEN SO LONG, I'D FORGOTTEN WHAT IT'S LIKE...

HUH?

HMM?

AREN'T YOU GONNA EAT, NANAMI?

INTERIOR OF A MCDONALD'S

YOU'RE BRINGING THIS UP NOW?

IT'S A BIT LATE...

YOU SEE...

I DON'T REALLY LIKE FAST FOOD.

BURGER

FRIES

MILK

MILK

IT'S JUST THAT PLACES LIKE THIS—

I USED TO COME HERE PRETTY OFTEN IN THE PAST.

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE THE ***TASTE*** OF FAST FOOD.

I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO NOT LIKE BURGERS.

I'M KIND OF SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT, THOUGH.

YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'D ENJOY FAST FOOD.

ケラ CIGGLE

ケラ CIGGLE

...

WELL, HOW DO I PUT IT...

IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T HAVE HAPPY MEMORIES OF PLACES LIKE THIS.

HM?

HEY.

NANAMI.

OH, SORRY.

NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE-

HERE.

CHOMP

SO LOVEY-DOVEY, I GOTTA SAY!

AW, THAT COUPLE OVER THERE IS SHARING THEIR FOOD WITH EACH OTHER!

JOLLY

CHEW

NANA-MI.

HM?

むぐ MUNCH

むぐ MUNCH

...!

I MEAN, THE FOOD WON'T TASTE AS GOOD ONCE IT GOES COLD.

WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!

I HOPE I CAN HELP YOU MAKE MORE HAPPY MEMORIES.

FROM NOW ON,

...

IT'S FINE IF YOU DON'T GET IT.

UM...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

HUH?!

CHEESY LINES COME SO NATURALLY TO YOU...

...YOU SURE LOVE SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT, HUH?

はあ SIGH...

ばくっ CHOMP

CHOMP ばくっ

...

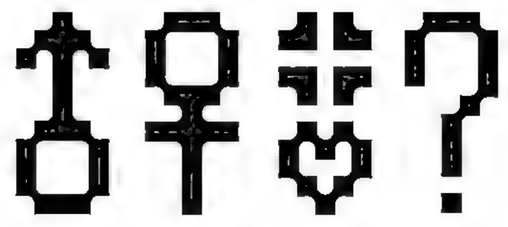
CHEW

¥580

THIS TASTES GOOD...

MUMBLE

«NEXT



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PRESENTED BY NIICHI

LEVEL 24 THAT'S THE KEY PART

YEAH, BUBBLE TEA IS REALLY POPULAR LATELY.

JEEZ... THERE'S BUBBLE TEA SHOPS EVERYWHERE AROUND HERE.

BUBBLE TEA

We specialize in bubble tea!

...

そわ FIDGET

BLAH らぺ

THE TAPIOCA PEARLS THEMSELVES DON'T REALLY HAVE A FLAVOR, SO DOES BUBBLE TEA ACTUALLY TASTE GOOD?

BLAH らぺ

ISN'T THE TAPIOCA IN BUBBLE TEA ALMOST PURE STARCH, THOUGH? IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, IT'S MADE FROM CASSAVA PLANTS.

BLAH らぺ

SQUIRM ｸﾈｸﾈ

FLINCH ｷｸ

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BUBBLE TEA?

IT SOUNDS LIKE IT.

FLINCH ｷｸ

YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS, NANAMI.

WA—

WAIT!

NO, KAORU!

WHY DON'T WE GET SOME TO TRY OUT?

LINED UP

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE A LINE FORMED BEHIND US ALREADY, SO WE MIGHT AS WELL.

UGH!

DO YOU HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST NORMIES OR SOME-THING?

WE'LL GET SLAUGHTERED BY NORMIES IF WE CARELESSLY APPROACH THEIR TERRI-TORY!

...I DO.

ALL RIGHT, LET'S WAIT IN LINE.

ER...

YOU WANT TO TRY SOME BUBBLE TEA TOO, RIGHT?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

HERE'S YOUR ORDER.

?

?

TA-DA!

OH...

WHOA!

THAT'S THE KEY PART.

DON'T THE BLACK BALLS AT THE BOTTOM MAKE IT HARD TO DRINK?

SLUUURP...

HUH?

YOU JUST DRINK IT.

SIIIP

HEY, HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO DRINK THIS?

GLAD TO HEAR IT.

IT TASTES GOOD!

OH...

OKAY, THEN...

RELAX. OUR STRAWS ARE EXTRA WIDE, SO YOU WON'T HAVE ANY ISSUES.

SIIIP

おず

SLOWLY

おず

SLOWLY

OH!

WHAT FLAVOR DID YOU GET?

THIS?

IT'S MATCHA BUBBLE MILK TEA MADE WITH BROWN SUGAR.

OOH, I WANNA TRY THAT TOO!

SURE.

HERE YOU GO.

WHOA...

PUT THE STRAW IN HIS MOUTH

LIFT

UHAHA

UM...

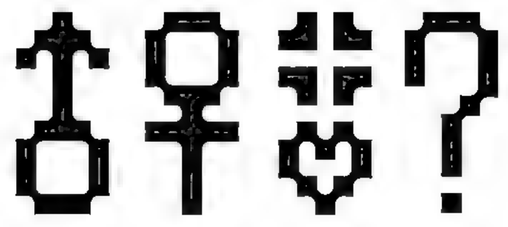
ACTUALLY, I THINK I'LL PASS...

YOU CAN HAVE THIS BACK...

NO?

«NEXT

SHE DIDN'T LOOK THIS UP
...WHY DON'T WE GO JOGGING AGAIN SOME-TIME?
Up
FREEZE
ON A SIDE NOTE, BUBBLE TEA HAPPENS TO CONTAIN ABOUT 500 CALORIES PER CUP. DID YOU KNOW THAT TOO, NANAMI?



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PRESENTED BY NIICHI

LEVEL 25 AM I SCREWED?

WHAT'S WRONG? NEED ADVICE?

YEAH.

OR RATHER, THERE'S SOME-PLACE I WANNA GO, SO—

IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER TO MY PLACE TO HASH IT OUT IN PERSON?

DADD- I MEAN, MY DAD'S OUT ON A WORK TRIP, AND MY MOM WOULDN'T MIND SOMEONE TO TALK WITH.

UM, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF I DON'T TALK TOO MUCH WITH YOUR MOM?

WHY'S THAT?

WE SOLVED THE PROBLEM OF YOUR VOICE NOT SOUNDING FEMININE THE OTHER DAY, DIDN'T WE?

I MEAN...

YEAH, BUT...

THE OTHER DAY-

KAORU WAS EATING OVER AT NANAMI'S PLACE TOGETHER WITH HER PARENTS.

CAN YOU REALLY SAY THAT'S "SOLVED," THOUGH?

WHOA...

THIS IS DELICIOUS!

I WAS QUITE SURPRISED TO HEAR.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT, KAORI-CHAN!

?

MOMM- MOM, WHAT'S THIS?

THAT'S TOFU SKIN, DEAR. IT'S YUMMY!

I'VE NEVER HAD SOMETHING THIS TASTY BEFORE!

PBBTT

PBBTT

YOUR VOICE IS MUCH DEEPER THAN I THOUGHT!

I HEARD IT EARLIER WHEN I WAS OUTSIDE YOUR ROOM.

I COULDN'T HEAR WHAT YOU TWO WERE TALKING ABOUT, THOUGH.

DOOM

DOOM

V-VOICE? MOM, WHEN DID YOU HEAR KAORI'S VOICE ...?

GOGOGOGO

IIMENA-

CING

...

UH, WAIT A SECOND ...

...AM I SCREWED?

NANAMI, I APPRECI-ATE YOUR HELP...

BUT I'M NOT SURE THOSE LIES WILL WORK ON YOUR DAD!

THAT'S WHY SHE'S SO SHY ABOUT SPEAKING IN PUBLIC, AND—

PANIC

PANIC

Y-YOU SEE, UM, KAORI, LIKE, HAS A COMPLEX ABOUT HER VOICE BEING DEEP!

W-WELL...

RATTLE

RATTLE

WHY DO I FEEL GUILTY, EVEN THOUGH IT WORKED OUT?

WE WON'T TEASE, SO FEEL FREE TO SPEAK UP!

OH.

OKAY...

SORRY FOR NOT NOTICIN' BEFORE.

IT WORKED ?!

OH, SO THAT'S WHY!

SMILE

DID I REALLY SELL IT BACK THERE?

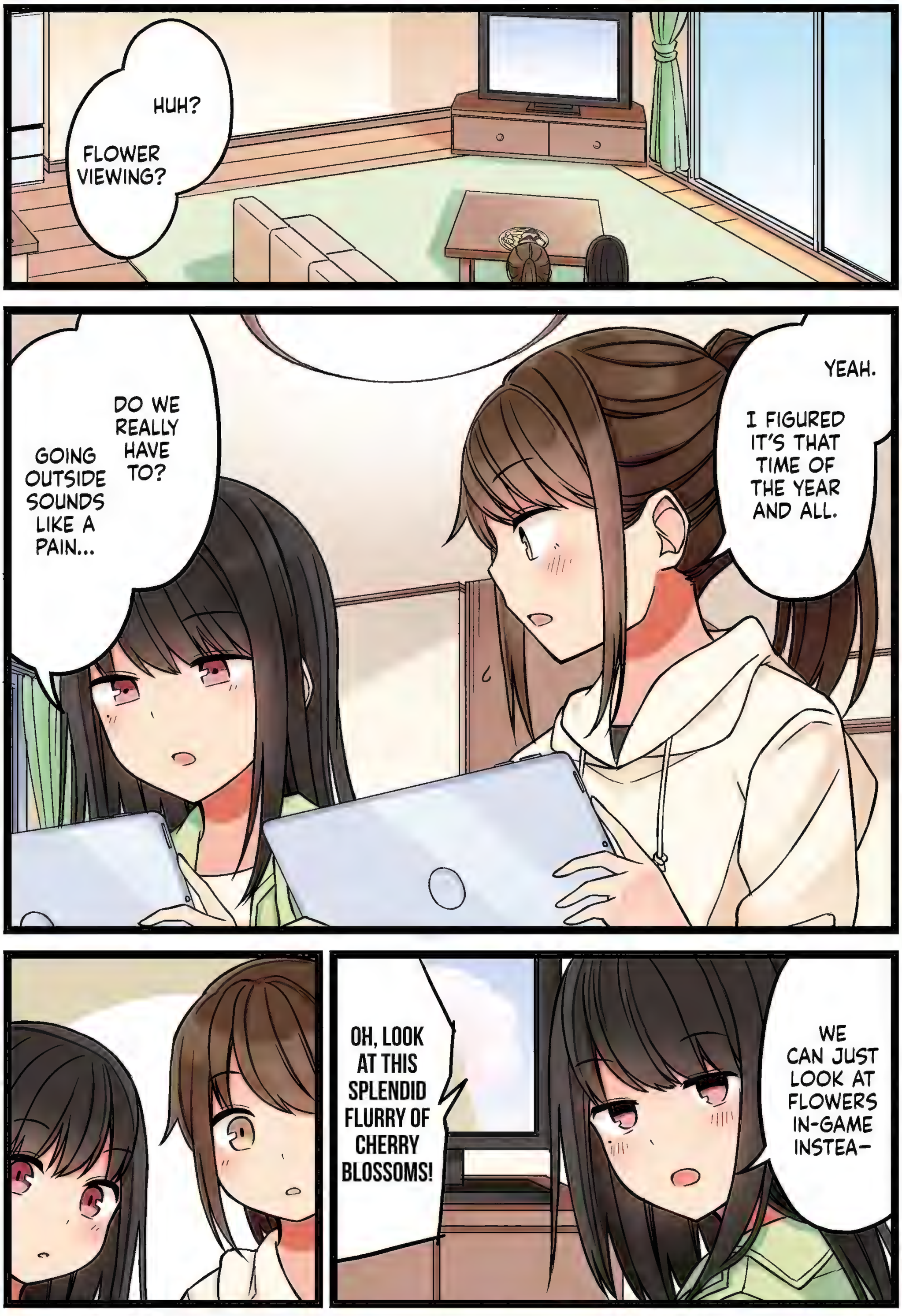
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I ACTED REALLY SUS...

SO YEAH, I WENT ALONG WITH THAT AT THE TIME, BUT...

KAORU PREPARED TO HEAD OUT DESPITE HIS DOUBTS.

NEXT

EXTRA LIFE LEVEL 26 THIS IS NICE TOO



THIS WEEKEND IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO ENJOY THESE BLOSSOMS HERE IN UENO PARK!

I HOPE THIS FOOTAGE IS ENOUGH TO CONVEY THE BEAUTY TO EVERYONE WATCHING FROM HOME!

YEAH, IT SURE DOES.

THAT SOUNDS NICE, DOESN'T IT?

FEEL FREE TO INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS OUT TO—

ほぉ INTERESTED

HAPPY JOLT

HUH? NO, I'M NOT INTER-ESTED IN GO-

WELL...

WHY DON'T WE GO SEE THEM TOMOR-ROW?

THEN I GUESS I WOULDN'T MIND TAGGING ALONG...

IF YOU BOTH WANT TO GO SEE THEM...

WHAT'S WITH THOSE LOOKS?!

にーま GRIN

GRIN にーま

パタ

CHK

YEAH, YEAH.

ALL RIGHT, SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.

カア CAW

CAW カア

...

ᐢᐢᐢ

I GUESS THERE'S A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT SPECIES OF CHERRY TREES IN THE PARK.

SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

BELL-FLOWER CHERRY ...

YOKO CHERRY...

EDO HIGAN CHERRY...

Park's Cherry Blossoms

...ew many different species of cherry blossoms

UPSY DAISY!

YEAH, JUST LIKE THAT.

HOLD ON TIGHT, NANAMI.

THEY'RE VERY FRAGILE, SO DON'T TOUCH THEM.

SO PRETTY!

WHOA!

THIS IS THE PROPER WAY TO ENJOY THE FLOWER VIEWIN'.

THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS HERE ARE FOR EVERY-BODY.

YEAH, WE'RE HERE TO LOOK AT 'EM, NOT TOUCH 'EM.

YOU UNDERSTAND SINCE YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL, RIGHT, NANAMI?

THIS SURE IS NOSTAL-GIC... IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...

YEP!

STILL, THOUGH...

CAN I REALLY CARRY THIS MUCH WITH ME?

OH WELL! I CAN JUST HAVE KAORU HOLD THIS IF I GET TIRED!

ぽつ DRIP

RUMBLE オオ

DRIP ぽつ

DRIP ぽつ

ザァァ

ザァァ

ザァァァ

ザァァ

ザァァァ

MM...

GOOD MORN-ING, NANAMI.

LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO RAIN ALL DAY.

RAIN CAN BE EXPECTED IN THE SUR-ROUNDING AREAS FOR—

THERE HAS BEEN A SUDDEN DROP OF ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE IN THE SOUTH-WESTERN REGION OF JAPAN.

Today's Weather Forecast

WHAT A SHAME...

THE PREVIOUS FORECAST SAID THE RAIN WOULDN'T START UNTIL EVENING, THOUGH...

NANAMI...
ピンポーン
DING DONG
ガチャ
KA-
DASH
タタタタ
CHAK
TT

OH, WEL-COME.

K-KAORI ?!

OH...

HELLO...

WH-WHY DID YOU COME OVER TO-DAY? 'CAUSE OF THIS RAIN, IT-

OH.

HEY, NANAMI.

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

CAN I BORROW YOUR LAP-TOP?

IT WON'T BE FOR LONG.

UH, WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?

WAIT JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER.

THE NEXT THING TO DO IS...

OKAY, THAT SHOULD DO IT.

HUH?

I MADE YOU GIRLS SOME TOASTED SAND-WICHES!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

FLAP

WHAT?

GRAB THAT END OF THIS SHEET, NANAMI.

OKAY ...?

B2222222

FLICK

THERE WE GO!

OKAY, LET'S GET IT STARTED!

I'M GLAD IT STILL WORKS.

I HAD AN OLD PROJECTOR LYING AROUND MY HOUSE, SO I WAS CURIOUS.

THIS SURE IS LOVELY!

OUR FLOWER-VIEWING PARTY.

I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT!

DELI-CIOUS!

ZAASSSSHH

くはっ CHOMP

OH.

RIGHT...

THEY'RE REALLY GOOD!

YOU SHOULD START EATING TOO, NANAMI!

UH, KAORI...

...

WHA-

I MEAN, I JUST FIGURED YOU WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE FLO-WERS.

Y'KNOW?

UM, YOU KNOW, ABOUT THE PROJECTOR AND EVERYTHING ELSE...

WHY DID YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO DO ALL THIS?

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO...

I-IT WASN'T LIKE THAT!

NANAMI.

BACK UP A BIT...

YOU'RE REALLY CLOSE.

THANKS ...

I WASN'T SURE ABOUT OFFLINE FLOWER VIEWING AT FIRST, BUT...

THIS IS NICE TOO.

RIGHT?

リアル
現実もたまには嘘をつく

Sometimes Even Reality Is a Lie!

／ CONTINUED IN VOLUME TWO ＼

COMMENT

AFTERWORD

THANK YOU FOR READING VOLUME ONE OF
SOMETIMES EVEN REALITY IS A LIE!

MY FIRST EXPOSURE TO ONLINE GAMES WAS BACK WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. MY DAD PLAYED GAMES, SO IT WAS THE NATURAL RESULT OF HIS INFLUENCE. ONLINE GAMES AND STREAMING WEREN'T THAT POPULAR BACK THEN, SO IT FELT WEIRD KNOWING THAT THERE WAS SOMEONE WHOSE FACE I DIDN'T KNOW ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SCREEN, SO TO SPEAK.

I GOT TO KNOW A GUY SOME TIME AFTER I FIRST STARTED PLAYING ONLINE GAMES. HE TOLD ME THAT HE WAS THE SAME AGE AS ME AND THAT HE USUALLY SPENT HIS DAYS ON A FISHING VESSEL CATCHING FISH FOR A LIVING. I WAS FLOORED TO LEARN THAT THERE WAS SOMEONE OUT THERE IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENT WORKING AT MY AGE.

A WHILE AFTER THAT, WE FOUND OUT THAT WE BOTH ENJOYED DRAWING, SO WE WOULD SOMETIMES SHOW EACH OTHER WHAT WE DREW. HE'D SHOW ME PICTURES OF THE EQUIPMENT ON THE BOAT (APPARENTLY HE GOT PERMISSION FROM THE CAPTAIN FOR THIS, WHICH WAS QUITE KIND OF THEM). HE WOULD SOMETIMES DISAPPEAR FOR A WHILE DUE TO WORK, BUT WE REMAINED FRIENDS FOR YEARS UP UNTIL I MOVED TO TOKYO.

TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH OF HIS STORY WAS ACTUALLY TRUE. IT'S EASY TO LIE ABOUT YOUR AGE, GENDER, AND BACKGROUND ONLINE. HOWEVER, THIS MEMORY OF MY FRIEND WHO MAY BE OUT THERE ON THE SEAS SOMEWHERE COMES TO MIND FROM TIME TO TIME, EVEN AFTER I'VE BECOME A WORKING MEMBER OF SOCIETY AS A MANGA ARTIST.

I HOPE HE'S STILL OUT THERE FISHING WITHOUT TROUBLES, AND I HOPE HE'S STILL DRAWING. I ALSO HOPE HE'LL FIND MY ART AGAIN ONE DAY IN THE FUTURE NOW THAT I'VE BECOME A MANGA ARTIST.

JULY 2020 NIICHI

ARE YOU ACTUALLY "KAORI-CHAN"?

KAORU'S TRUE IDENTITY GETS BUSTED?!

THE NEXT CHAPTER...

A NEW CRUSH(?) IS ABOUT TO DEVELOP!

BLUSH

ぽっ...

O-OH...

THANKS...

えっ SURPRISE?

NANAMI'S HOME.

SO...

YOU REALLY WENT ALONG WITH MOM'S IDEA TO SLEEP OVER TONIGHT.

IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR NOT FIRMLY SAYING NO.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY THE NIGHT?

MUTTER ごにょ

MUTTER ごにょ

UGH...

BUT...

SHE MEANT WELL BY IT...

NO BUTS.

AS FOR THE REAL RELATIONSHIP...

!?

RAPID TURN OF EVENTS!

...

?

PENALTY GAME (RANDOMLY GENERATED)

< Results >

No.17

Tell the person you like about your feelings for them.

Comments:

In a way, this is both the easiest and hardest penalty game. Don't uninstall this app even if things don't go well. Good luck!

Retry

*Share results

LET'S GO!

BAM!

VOLUME TWO OF
SOMETIMES EVEN REALITY IS A LIE!
IS COMING SOON!

リアル
現実もたまには嘘をつく
Sometimes Even Reality Is a Lie!

Sometimes Even Reality Is a Lie! 2

[VARIETIES OF NANAMI]

HMM...

...

HALF-UP PONY-TAIL.

WELL...

HUH?

YOU LOOK CUTE, I GUESS ...?

OH.

COME ON, NOTHING TO SAY?

I'M NOT USED TO THIS LOOK...

UM...

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

MIRROR

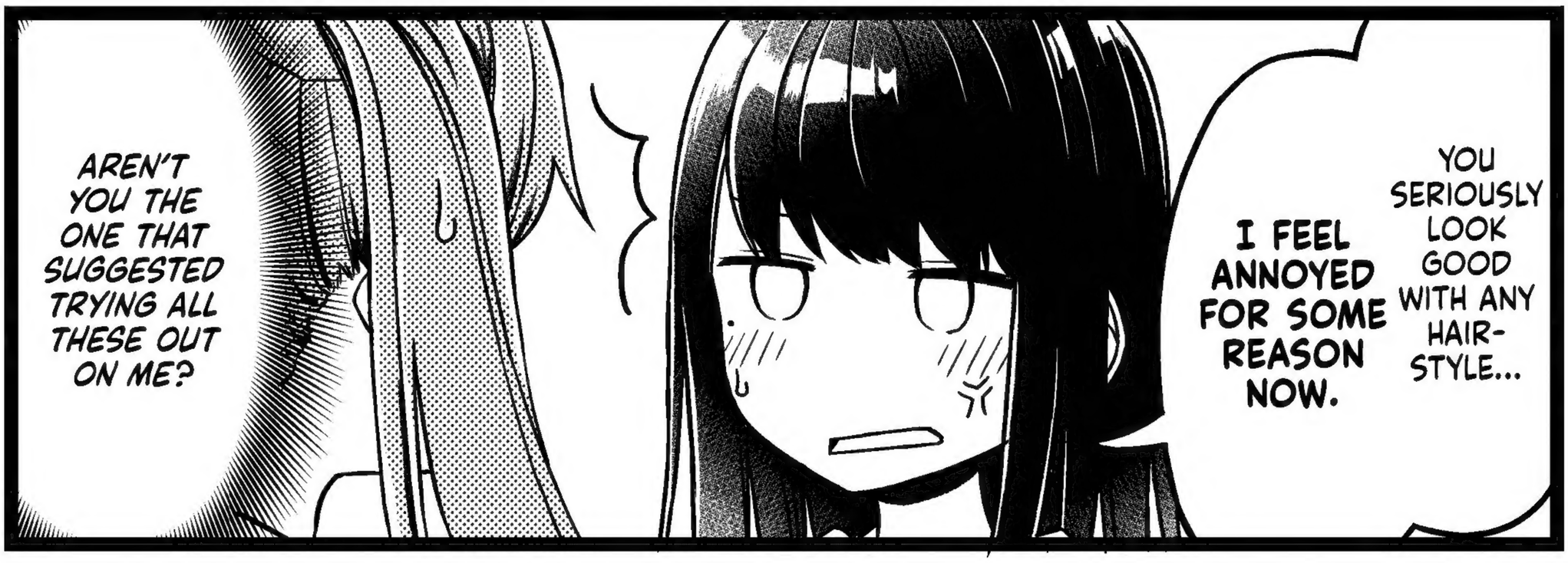
I GUESS ...?

YOU LOOK CUTE.

OH MY.

SHE SURE SEEMS HAPPY TODAY

[VARIETIES OF KAORI]



SOMETIMES EVEN REALITY IS A LIE! VOLUME 1
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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

GENJITSU MO TAMANIHA USO WO TSUKU 1
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ISBN: 978-1-7183-1363-7
Digital Edition 1.0